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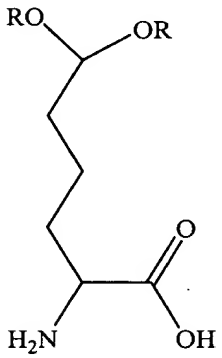
IN THE CLAIMS

A listing of currently pending claims follows:

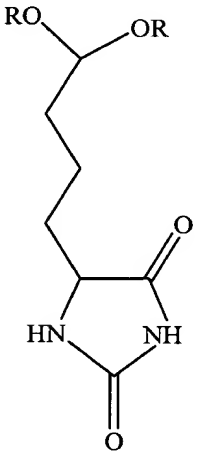
Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A process for the preparation of allysine acetal of the general formula (I)



(I)

comprising:

contacting a hydantoin of the general formula (II):



(II)

wherein in formulae (I) and (II) R represents (C_1-C_8)-alkyl, (C_2-C_4)-alkylene, (C_6-C_{18})-aryl, (C_7-C_{19})- aralkyl, or (C_1-C_8)-acyl,

with a hydantoinase and a D- or L-specific carbamoylase in the presence of at least one hydantoin racemase,

under conditions suitable for *in situ* racemisation of the hydantoin or of an N-carbamoyl amino acid.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The process of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the hydantoinase, a D- or L-specific carbamoylase, or the at least one racemase is in at least one form selected from the group consisting of free form, immobilized form, cell fraction form, cell extract form, and in a form enclosed in a cell.

Claim 3 (Original): The process of Claim 1, wherein the *in situ* racemization is spontaneous, enzyme-catalyzed, or both.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 1,

wherein the hydantoin racemase, the hydantoinase, and the L- or D- specific carbamoylase are present in a total cell catalyst.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 4,

wherein the total cell catalyst comprises an L-specific carbamoylase.

Claim 6 (Original): The process according to Claim 4, wherein said total cell catalyst comprises L-specific carbamoylase.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 6, wherein the recombinant bacterium is *Escherichia coli.*

Claim 8 (Previously presented): The process according to Claim 1

wherein

the contacting is carried out in an enzyme-membrane reactor.

Claim 9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the contacting is performed in the presence of a metal salt.

Claim 11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The process of Claim 4, further comprising developing the total cell catalyst from at least one cell that comprises at least one cloned gene coding for at least one member selected from the group consisting of a hydantoin racemase, hydantoinase, L-specific carbamoylase, and D-specific carbamoylase.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The process of Claim 4, wherein the total cell catalyst is at least one member selected from the group consisting of *Escherichia coli* JM109, *Escherichia coli* NM 522, *Escherichia coli* JM105, *Escherichia coli* RR1, *Escherichia coli* DH5 , *Escherichia coli* TOP 10^{-}, and *Escherichia coli* HB101.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A method for producing a pharmaceutical or a biologically active product, comprising contacting the allysine acetal of the general formula (I) produced by the process of Claim 1 with a pharmaceutically-acceptable or a biologically-acceptable ingredient, excipient, or carrier.

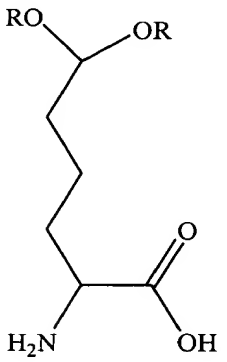
Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The process of Claim 1, wherein the contacting is performed so that the allysine acetal of the general formula (I) is produced at an optical purity of at least 90%.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The process of Claim 1, wherein the contacting is performed so that the allysine acetal of the general formula (I) is produced at a yield of at least 85%.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the contacting is performed at a pH of from 5.5 to 8.5.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the contacting is performed at a temperature of from 20 to 40 °C.

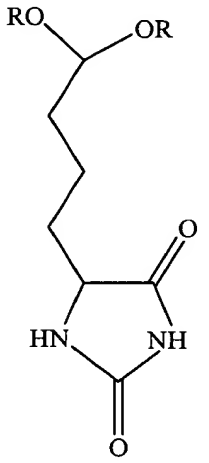
Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A process for the preparation of allysine acetal of the general formula (I)



(I)

comprising:

contacting a hydantoin of the general formula (II):



(II)

wherein in formulae (I) and (II) R represents (C_1-C_8)-alkyl, (C_2-C_4)-alkylene, (C_6-C_{18})-aryl, (C_7-C_{19})- aralkyl, or (C_1-C_8)-acyl,

with a hydantoinase;

contacting the hydantoin with a D- or L-specific carbamoylase; and

contacting the hydantoin with at least one hydantoin racemase,

wherein the contacting is performed under conditions suitable for *in situ* racemisation of the hydantoin or of an N-carbamoyl amino acid.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 19, wherein the contacting of the hydantoin with the hydantoinase, D- or L-specific carbamoylase, and the at least one racemase are performed sequentially or continuously.

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

The specification has been amended to include that information relevant to JM109 (pOM22, pOM21) incorporated by reference in the present specification on page 5, lines 12-13. The sequence listing has been replaced with a substitute sequence listing. The substitute sequence listing provides the sequence listing as originally filed and those sequence listing disclosed in U.S. 6,524,807 which was incorporated by reference in the specification as originally filed. Since this information was incorporated by reference in the specification as originally filed its inclusion in the present specification by amendment does not represent new matter. Support for the amendment is found in U.S. 6,524,807 (column 3, line 13 – column 11, line 64) which claims priority to U.S. 60/157,427 and which is incorporated by reference in the present specification on page 5, lines 8-15. The text may also be found on page 4, line 5 – page 15, line 9 of U.S. 60/157,427. Applicants submit the amendment to the specification does not add any new matter.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants thank Examiner Patterson for the helpful and courteous discussion of February 19, 2004. During the discussion, Applicants' U.S. representative presented arguments and information showing that those of ordinary skill in the art would readily recognize the *E. coli* JM109 bacterium and its plasmids pOM22 and pOM21.

In the Office Action of February 23, 2004, the Office objected to the term JM109 (pOM22, pOM21) on the grounds that it is essential material incorporated by reference in the present application. Applicants submit that those of ordinary skill in the art readily recognize that JM109 may be a commercially available *Escherichia coli* bacterium.

The Office has objected to the specification on the grounds that the term *E. coli* JM109 (pOM22, pOM21) is essential matter that must be disclosed in the specification. The term JM109 (pOM22, pOM21) is identified in the application as originally filed on page 7, lines 13 -14 by reference to U.S. 60/157,427. Applicants submit that those of ordinary skill in the art would readily recognize that the details of JM109 (pOM22, pOM21) are those materials disclosed in U.S. 60/157,427. The details of the JM109 *E. coli* cells of 60/157,427 are also described in U.S. 6,524,837 which provides 60/157,427 as a related U.S. application.

The whole cell catalyst JM109 (pOM22, pOM21) which has a cloned gene coding for a hydantoin racemase, a hydantoinase and a L- or D-specific carbamoylase has now been explicitly included in the present specification by the above-mentioned amendment. The amendment does not represent new matter because both U.S. 60/157,427 and U.S. 09/407,062 are incorporated by reference in the specification) as originally filed (page 5, line 12-13.

Applicants submit that the amendment to the specification to include at least a portion of the information incorporated by reference in the specification as originally filed obviates the Office's objection to the specification with regard to the term JM109 (pOM22, pOM21).

Applicants submit the amendment further overcomes the rejection in view of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph with regard to Applicants' possession of the claimed invention and the disclosure's sufficiency for allowing those of ordinary skill in the art to make or use the claimed invention. Applicants submit the amended specification sufficiently describes the process of Claims 1 and 19.

The Office objected to the present specification on the grounds that the language of the claims is not taught in the specification. Specifically the Office noted;

> "the instant specification does not teach "contacting a hydantoin of...formula II...with a hydantoinase and a D- or L- specific carbamolayse in the presence of at least one hydantoin racemase under conditions suitable for the *in situ* racemisation of the hydantoin of an N-carbamoyl amino acid" as claimed in claim 1 or the embodiments of claim 19... Therefore it is continued to be maintained that the claimed invention was not described in the specification in such a way as to show the skilled artisan that they had possession of the claimed invention and/or in such a way as to enable this artisan to make and/or use the invention..."

The specification as amended above to clarify the term JM109, discloses that the hydantoinase is expressed in *E. coli* JM109 (see for example column 7, lines 13-27 of U.S. 6,524,837). Further, it is disclosed that whole cell catalysts may be prepared by co-expressing the evolved or wild-type hydantoinase with a hydantoin, a racemase and a L-carbamolyase in *E. coli* (column 9, lines 21-24). Thus the specification as originally filed discloses a process of preparing compounds of formula (I) through an enzymatic process performed on a hydantoin of formula (II) (page 1, lines 5-9).

On page 4, lines 18-26 of the specification as originally filed it is disclosed:

> "Compounds of formula (II) are subjected to a reaction with at least one hydantoinase and at least one D- or L-specific carbamoylase, as well as to a spontaneous and/or enzyme-catalyzed in situ racemisation."

Therefore, the specification as originally filed explicitly discloses that which the Office asserts is not taught (see also page 5, lines 30-35). The conditions under which the process is carried out are disclosed beginning at page 5, line 27 through page 6, line 18 and further in the Example on page 7, lines 13-20.

Applicants submit that the specification as originally filed, and the specification as amended to include the information previously identified as essential material (matter) by the Office, teaches contacting the hydantoin of the present claims with a hydantoinase (e.g., as an enzyme expressed by, for example, E. coli), and further teaches the conditions under which the contacting may be carried out in the presence of the carbamoylase.

Applicants have now submitted a substitute Sequence Listing and a corresponding computer-readable Sequence Listing. The sequence information recorded in the corresponding computer-readable Sequence Listing is identical to the paper copy of the substitute Sequence Listing. Support for all of the sequences listed in the substitute Sequence Listing is found in the present application as originally filed on pages 12-17 and in U.S. 6,524,837 which was incorporated by reference in the specification as originally filed. No new matter is believed to have been introduced by the submission of the substitute Sequence Listing and the corresponding computer-readable Sequence Listing.

Applicants submit that the arguments presented above raise no new issues for consideration since the amendment to include matter described by the Office as "essential material" was identified as such in a previous Office Action. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner enter the amendment, reconsider the rejection and pass all now-pending claims to Issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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US provisional
60/157 427
04.10.1999

PROVISIONAL APPLICATION

UNDER 37 CFR 1.53(b)(2)

Title: HYDANTOINASE VARIANTS WITH IMPROVED PROPERTIES AND THEIR USE FOR THE PRODUCTION OF AMINO ACIDS

Applicants: FRANCES H. ARNOLD
OLIVER MAY
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ANDREAS BOMMARIUS

HYDANTOINASE VARIANTS WITH IMPROVED PROPERTIES AND THEIR USE FOR THE PRODUCTION OF AMINO ACIDS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to hydantoinases. More particularly, the present invention involves the discovery of a number of modified hydantoinases which exhibit improved enzymatic properties relative to previously isolated hydantoinases.

2. Description of Related Art

Hydantoin hydrolyzing enzymes, which will be referred here as 'hydantoinases', comprise a diverse class of enzymes having a wide range of specificities and biological functions. Some hydantoinases for example play an essential role in the reductive pathway of pyrimidine degradation (dihydropyrimidinases, EC 3.5.2.2) whereas others catalyze reactions in the purine degradation pathway (allantoinases, EC 3.5.2.5). Despite their functional diversity hydantoinases show significant sequence similarities and belong to a superfamily of amidohydrolases related to ureases as described by Holm, L., and Sander, C. (1997) An evolutionary treasure: Unification of a broad set of amidohydrolases related to ureases, *Proteins* **28**:72-82; The alignment of sequences from the different hydantoinases was used to identify conserved residues that are important for catalytic function as described by May, O., Habenicht, A., Mattes, R., Syldatk, C. and Siemann, M. (1998) Molecular Evolution of Hydantoinases, *Biol. Chem.* **379**:743-747; and Kim, G.J. and Kim, H.S. (1998) Identification of the structural similarity in the functionally related amidohydrolases acting on the cyclic amide ring. *Biochem. J.* **330**:295-302. Despite this knowledge that allows to identify equivalent amino acid residues of the different hydantoinases, knowledge about the function of other amino acid residues is limited. So far, no X-ray structure of hydantoinases was reported.

An important property of hydantoinases is their enantioselectivity which makes them valuable for the production of optically pure D- or L-amino acids. A detailed background of hydantoinases is provided in the published doctoral thesis of Oliver May entitled "The Hydantoinase from *Arthrobacter*

aurescens DSM 3745 and its Relation to other Hydantoinases" (Institut fuer Bioverfahrenstechnik, Lehrstuhl Physiologische Mikrobiologie, Universitaet Stuttgart- 1998).

In view of the importance of hydantoinases to the production of optically pure amino acids, there has been a concentrated effort to develop modified enzymes which have improved properties with respect to amino acid production. As a result of this effort, a number of microorganisms have been isolated and identified which produce hydantoinases with desirable enzymatic properties. U.S. Pat. No. 5,516,660 discloses microoganisms identified as DSM7329 and DSM 7330 which produce hydantoinases that are capable of producing L-alpha-amino acids from D-, L- and/or D,L-5-monosubstituted hydantoin. In U.S. Pat. No. 5,714,355, a mutant of the DSM 7330 microorganism is disclosed which has enzymatic activity which is more active than the parent organism by a factor of up to 2.7. The mutant (DSM 9771) was obtained by cultivating the parent DSM 7330 organism under selective pressure using L-carbamoylmethionine (L-CAM) as the sole source of nitrogen.

Although the hydantoinases produced by the above-mentioned microoganisms are well-suited for at least some of their intended purposes, there still is a continuing need to develop new enzymes which exhibit even more desirable hydantoinase activity. In particular, there is a need to improve enantioselectivity as well as catalytic activity.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with the present invention, modified hydantoinases are provided which have enhanced enzymatic properties with respect to the hydantoinase produced by the microorganism DSM 9771 which is identified in U.S. Pat. No. 5,714,355. The DSM 9771 hydantoinase has an amino acid sequence which includes numbered positions ranging sequentially from 1 to 458 (SEQ. ID. NO. 2).

It was discovered that substitution of amino acids at one or more specific amino acid positions within the DSM 9771 enzyme resulted in the formation of enzymes having enhanced properties with respect to activity and enantioselectivity. The specific amino acid position numbers at which substitutions are made to achieve the modified hydantoinase enzymes in accordance with the present invention are positions Nos. 95, 154, 180, 251 and 255. As a further feature of the invention, specific amino acid

substitutions at the various positions are identified to provide specific types of modified hydantoinases. The specific amino acid substitutions include I95F, I95L, V154A, V180A, Q251R and V255A. One or more of these specific substitutions were found to enhance the enzymatic activity and change the enantioselectivity of the "wild type" DSM 9771 hydantoinase. These changed enzyme properties were found to contribute to a significantly improved hydantoinase process by reducing the accumulation of the wrong enantiomer of the N-carbamoyl-amino acid.

Six specific modified hydantoinases are disclosed which have one or more of the above amino acid substitutions. The amino acid sequences for these modified hydantoinases are set forth in SEQ. ID. NOS. 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14. These modified hydantoinases are also identified throughout the specification as 1CG7, 11DH7, 1BF7, 19AG11, 22CG2 and Q2H4, respectively.

The above discussed and many other features and attendant advantages of the present invention will become better understood by reference to the following detailed description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is the restriction map of the vector used for expression of the hydantoinase gene (hyuH) from *Arthrobacter sp.* DSM9771.

FIG. 2 is a chromatogram showing the results of the separation of N-carbomoyl-methionine enantiomers produced by mutants Q2H4, 11DH7 and 1CG7 as compared to the DSM 9771 hydantoinase.

FIG. 3 is a chart which depicts the relative improvements in enzymatic activity and enantioselectivity which is provided by the mutant enzymes of the present invention with respect to the DSM 9771 hydantoinase (**W**).

FIG. 4 is a chart which shows enzymatic activity of different Arthrobacter strains and mutant Q2H4 of the present invention.

FIG. 5 is two charts showing the time course of the hydrolysis of 100 mM D,L-MTEH in 0.1M Tris pH 7.8, 37°C with 8mg cell dry mass of **A)** *E.coli*

JM109 (pOM20/pOM21) (wildtype pathway) and **B)** *E.coli* JM109 (pOM22/pOM21) (pathway with evolved hydantoinase from Q2H4).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The modified hydantoinases in accordance with the present invention were produced, identified and isolated using random mutagenesis procedures of the type described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,316935 and 5,906,930. Random mutagenesis protocols, which are also known as directed evolution procedures, are also described in Kuchner, O., Arnold, F.H. (1997) Directed Evolution of Enzyme Catalysts, *TIBTECH* **15**:523-530; Chen, K. and Arnold F. (1991). Enzyme engineering for nonaqueous solvents—random mutagenesis to enhance activity of subtilisin E in polar organic media, *Bio/Technology* **9**:1073-1077; Chen, K. and Arnold, F. (1993) Tuning the activity of an enzyme for unusual environments: sequential random mutagenesis of subtilisin E for catalysis in dimethylformamide, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **90**:5618-5622; and You, L. and Arnold, F.H. (1996). Directed Evolution of Subtilisin E in *Bacillus Subtilis* to Enhance Total Activity in Aqueous Dimethylformamide, *Protein Engineering*, 9, 77-83.

The random mutagenesis procedure used to identify and isolate the modified hydantoinases followed the same basic procedures as identified above. First, a large number of random mutations in the wild type nucleotide sequence (SEQ. ID. NO. 1) were generated. This library of nucleotide sequences where then used to express a large number of mutated enzymes. The library of mutated hydantoinases was then screened to identify those mutants with enhanced enzymatic activity and changed enantioselectivity.

The step of screening the first library of expressed amino acid sequences to identify desirable variants could have been accomplished using any number of suitable screening techniques which measure desirable enzyme properties. The screening method actually used was a pH-indicator assay which will be described in more detail below.

In accordance with the present invention, four enzymes having enhanced hydantoinase properties were identified as the result of the first round of random mutagenesis of the DSM 9711 nucleotide sequence (SEQ. ID. NO. 1). The first round mutant enzymes are 1CG7, 11DH7, 1BF7 and 19AG11. The nucleotide sequences for these first round mutants are set forth

in SEQ. ID. NOS. 3, 5, 7 and 9, respectively. The corresponding amino acid sequences are set forth in SEQ. ID. NOS. 4, 6, 8 and 10, respectively.

A second round of random mutagenesis was conducted in which the 11DH7 nucleotide sequence was randomly mutated to form a second library of mutants. A single mutant (22CG2) was identified which expressed a modified hydantoinase that exhibited desirable enzymatic properties. The 22CG2 enzyme is the same as the 11DH7 enzyme except that the 22CG2 mutant has an amino acid substitution at position 180.

The 22CG2 mutant was subjected to saturation mutagenesis in order to introduce all 20 different amino acids into amino acid position 95. 400 clones were screened and a mutant enzyme with enhanced enzymatic activity and higher (L)-selectivity was identified as Q2H4. The Q2H4 mutant is the same as the 22CG2 mutant except that phenylalanine is substituted for isoleucine at position 95.

As a result of the isolation and identification of the above identified mutants, it was established that improved hydantoinases may be obtained by modifying the DSM 9771 enzyme by substituting amino acids at positions 95, 124, 154, 180, 251 and 255. The substitutions may be made at one or more of the positions. Table 1 sets forth preferred amino acid substitutions.

Table 1

Amino Acid Position	Substitution	Abbreviation
95	Ile → Phe	I95F
95	Ile → Leu	I95L
154	Val → Ala	V154A
180	Val → Ala	V180A
251	Gln → Arg	Q251R
255	Val → Ala	V255A

Amino acid substitutions other than those set forth in Table 1 are possible provided that the resulting hydantoinase exhibits desirable enzymatic properties. For example, other suitable amino acid substitutions for isoleucine at position 95 include Gly, Ala, Val, Leu, Phe, Tyr and Trp. For positions 154, 180 and 255, suitable alternative amino acid substitutions for valine include

Ala and Gly. Suitable alternative amino acid substitutions at position 251 for glutamine include Arg, Lys and Asn. The amino acid substitutions may be made by saturation mutagenesis followed by screening of clones. The substitutions may also be made by chemical manipulation of the DSM 9711 enzyme or by conventional synthesis of peptides having the desired amino acid substitutions at the desired locations. It should be noted that the above listed amino acid substitutions are intended to be exemplary of preferred alternative substitutions at the various substitution sites. Substitutions of other amino acids are possible provided that the enzymatic activity of the resulting protein is not destroyed. The usefulness of a particular amino acid substitution at positions 95, 154, 180, 251 and 255 can be determined by routine pH screening as described below.

Six modified hydantoinases in accordance with the present invention are listed in Table 2. Table 2 also lists the amino acid substitutions with respect to the DSM 9771 sequence (SEQ. ID. NO. 2) for each modified enzyme which is identified.

Table 2

Hydantoinase Variant	Amino Acid Substitution
1CG7 (SEQ. ID. NO. 4)	V154A
11DH7 (SEQ. ID. NO. 6)	I95L + Q251R
1BF7 (SEQ. ID. NO. 8)	V255A
19AG11 (SEQ. ID. NO. 10)	I95L
22CG2 (SEQ. ID. NO. 12)	I95L + V180A + Q251R
Q2H4 (SEQ. ID. NO. 14)	I95F + V180A + Q251R

The modified hydantoinases of the present invention may be used in the same manner as other hydantoinases to produce optically pure D- and L-amino acids. For example, *see* Biocatalytic Production of Amino Acids and Derivatives (Rozzell, J.D. and Wagner, F. eds.) (1992) Hanser Publisher, NY, at pages 75-176, for a description of the use of hydantoinases in the production of optically pure amino acids from DL-5-monosubstituted hydantoins. The general use of hydantoinases is also described in Enzyme catalysis in organic synthesis (Dranz, K. and Waldmann, H. eds.) 1995, VCH-Verlag, Weinheim, at pages 409-431; and Wagner, T. et al. (1996) Production of L-methionine from

D,L-5-(2-methylthioethyl) hydantoin by resting cells of a new mutant strain of *Arthrobacter* species DSM 7330, *Journal of Biotechnology* **46**:63-68.

Amino acids referred to in the present invention are all natural or unnatural amino acids, wherein the amino acids are deemed to be a primary amine connected to carboxylic acid group via one intermediate C-atom (α-C-atom). This C-atom bears only one further residue. Preferred unnatural amino acids are disclosed in DE 19903268.8. Preferred natural amino acids are those mentioned in Beyer-Walter, Lehrbuch der Organischen Chemie, 22. Auflage, S. Hirzel Verlag Stuttgart, S.822-827. Among those amino acids presented above alanine, leucine, isoleucine, methionine, valine or tert, leucine, neopentyl glycine are mot preferably transformed in a process utilizing the modified hydantoinase.

To transform hydantoinase directly to the amino acids by enzymes it is preferred to use the hydantoinase of the invention accompanied with a carbamoylase and a hydantoin racemase.

The hydantoinase can be used within this process either in their free or immobilized form. Also the carbamoylase and hydantoine racemase may be immobilized, too. Techniques to immobilize enzymes are well known to the skilled worker. Preferred methods are mentioned in Bhavender P. Sharma, Lorraine F. Bailey and Ralph A. Messing, Immobilisierte Biomaterialien - Techniken und Anwendungen, Angew. Chem. 1992, 94, 836-852; Dordick et al., J. Am. Chem. Soc. 194, 116, 5009-5010; Okahata et al., Tetrahedron Lett. 1997, 38, 1971-1974; Adlercreutz et al., Biocatalysis 1992, 6, 291-305; Goto et al., Biotechnol. Prog. 1994, 10, 263-268; Kamiya et al., Biotechnol. Prog. 1995, 11, 270-275; Okahata et al., Tibtech, February 1997, 15, 50-54; Fishman et al., Biotechnol. Lett. 1998, 20, 535-538).

The transformation discussed can be conducted in a batch process or continuous manner. Advantageously, an enzyme-membrane-reactor is used as the reaction vessel (Wandrey et al. in Jahrbuch 1998, Verfahrenstechnik und Chemieingenieurwesen, VDI S. 151ff.; Wandrey et al. in Applied Homogeneous Catalysis with Organometallic Compounds, Vol. 2, VCH 1996, S.832 ff.; Kragl et al., Angew. Chem. 1996, 6, 684f.).

The following description provides additional details regarding the procedures used to identify and isolate the modified hydantoinases in accordance with the present invention.

The hydantoinase from *Arthrobacter sp.* DSM 9771 (U.S. Pat. No. 5,714,355) was cloned by polymerase chain reaction (PCR). The nucleotide sequence was determined and compared to other hydantoinases from closely related *Arthrobacter* strains. The nucleotide and amino acid sequences for the hydantoinase are set forth in SEQ. ID. NOS. 1 and 2, respectively. The cloned enzymes from *Arthrobacter sp.* DSM 9771 share about 97.5% identity based on their nucleotide sequence (corresponding to 7 amino acid changes) with the enzymes from *Arthrobacter aurescens* DSM 3747 and DSM 3745. The enzymes were expressed in *E.coli* JM109 using a rhamnose inducible vector construct which was provided by the Institute of Industrial Genetics, Universität Stuttgart (Germany). The restriction map is set forth in FIG. 1.

The hydantoinase was subjected to random mutagenesis using error-prone PCR. Approximately 10,000 clones were screened using a pH-indicator assay as described below:

1. *Seed culture plates*: plates containing 100 µl/well LBamp were inoculated with single colonies/well and incubated for 24 hours at 30°C, 250 rpm.

2. *Main culture plates*: cells from seed culture plates were transferred with a 96-pin replicator into plates containing 200 µl LBamp + 0.2% rhamnose. Plates were incubated for 24 hours at 30°C, 250 rpm.

3. *Assay*: using a pipetting robot, the culture of each well was mixed by pipetting up and down (3x) and transferred (75µl each) into two fresh plates. The two plates are filled with 100 µl/well freshly prepared substrate solution (80 mM D-MTEH and L-MTEH respectively, in 0.05 g/l cresol red pH 8.6). The absorbance at 580 nm is measured immediately after the substrate was added to the plate and after 3 hours incubation at room temperature. The activity was calculated as follows:

   Activity = (A580(0h)-A580(3h))/((A580(0h)-0.8)) (Rem:0.8 is the absorbance without cells)

For screening purposes, the ratio of activities for the D- and L-enantiomer is taken as an indicator for changed enantioselectivity.

Since the ratio of activities for different enantiomers in the screening tests is only a first hint of enantioselectivity, the identified mutants were confirmed by chiral HPLC using the racemic substrate as follows. 2ml overnight cultures were added to 2ml 80 mM DL-MTEH in 0.1M Tris pH8.5 and incubated at 37°C. After 1h and 2h respectively, the reaction mixture was centrifuged for 2 minutes, 14000 rpm. 20 µl of the supernatant was applied onto the HPLC column and the various fractions eluted.

About 2% of the population showed a significantly higher (>50%) activity compared to wild-type DSM 9771. Although a considerable number of those clones might be false positives due to common variation of expression level in a population, about 50% of rescreened clones were indeed higher activity mutants. The high number indicates that hydantoinase has a large evolutionary potential. This can be rationalized since a high Km value (about 15mM), a rather low specific activity (about 12U/mg) and a low expression level (<10% of total protein) leaves room for improvements of this enzyme.

Table 3 shows the results of the tested mutants. Mutant 1CG7 shows a dramatic increase of (D-) selectivity. Compared to wild-type, the enantiomeric excess of the product is 4 times increased. The enantioselectivity of clone 11DH7 and 19AG11 was changed into the opposite direction since both mutants are absolutely non-selective. The activity mutant 1BF7 possesses the same enantioselectivity as wild-type.

TABLE 3

Clone	Conversion	enantiomeric excess[%]
wild-type	42% after 2 hours	19
1CG7	42% after 2 hours	90
11DH7	42% after 2 hours	0
19AG11	37% after 2 hours	0
1BF7	45% after 1 hour	19

All of the mutants were sequenced and the nucleotide and amino acid sequences established as set forth in Table 4.

TABLE 4

	Nucleotide Sequence (SEQ. ID. NO.)	Amino Acid Sequence (SEQ. ID. NO.)
1CG7	3	4
11DH7	5	6
1BF7	7	8
19AG11	11	12

A second round of random mutagenesis was conducted using the first generation mutant 11DH7 as the parent.

Two different libraries with different error rates (20% and 50% inactive clones) were produced and 10,000 clones of each libarry were screened using the above-described pH-indicator method. None of the screened clones showed significantly higher L-selectivity but mutants with improved activity and higher D-selectivity were found. One mutant (22CG2) differing in only one amino acid (V180A) from the parent was found to be 4-fold more active compared to parent 11DH7 and 5-fold more active compared to wildtype DSM 9771.

Sequencing of the first generation mutants 11DH7 and 19AG11 revealed a single mutation (I95L) is responsible for their decreased D-selectivity. Introducing all 20 different amino acids into amino acid position 95 of mutant 22CG2 by saturation mutagenesis and screening of about 400 clones revealed a new mutant (Q2H4) with significantly improved L-selectivity (ee_L=20%) and 1.5-fold improved activity compared to its parent 22CG2. The results of HPLC analysis for enantioselectivity are shown in FIG. 2. The nucleotide and amino acid sequences for 22CG2 are set forth in SEQ. ID. NOS. 11 and 12, respectively. The nucleotide and amino acid sequences for Q2H4 are set forth in SEQ. ID. NOS. 13 and 14, respectively.

In addition to the improvements provided by the mutants described above, the activity of the whole cell catalyst could be increased by a factor of 10 by addition of 1 mM manganese to the growth medium and to the substrate solution. Under those conditions the activity of mutant 22CG2 was determined to be about 380 U/gCDW which is a 50-fold increase in activity compared to the activity described for *Arthrobacter sp.* DSM 9771. A comparison of the activity of mutant Q2H4 with other strains is given in FIG. 4.

A summary of the enzymatic activities of the various modified enzymes with respect to the parent DSM 9771 is set forth in FIG. 3. As can be seen from FIG. 3, all of the modified enzymes identified in accordance with the present invention have activities and/or enantioselectivity which are better than the unmodified DSM 9771 hydantoinase. When tested under standard conditions by HPLC, the Q2H4 mutant showed inverted enantioselectivity for the hydrolysis of D,L-MTEH. Q2H4 produced N-carbamoyl-L-methionine with an enantiomeric excess (ee) of 20% at about 30% conversion. In addition, the Q2HF mutant was approximately 1.5-fold more active than its parent 22CG2.

In a further embodiment the present invention is directed to a whole cell catalyst comprising a gene encoding for a carbamoylase, a racemase and a hydantoinase wherein the hydantoinase is considered to be according to the modified hydantoinase of the invention.

Advantageously, a bacteria is used as a cell, because of high reproduction rates and easy growing conditions to be applied. There are several bacteria known to the skilled worker which can be utilized in this respect. Preferably an E. coli can be used as the cell and expression system in this regard (Yanisch-Perron et al., Gene (1985), 33, 103-109).

Another aspect of the invention is a process for the production of enantiomerically enriched amino acids, which utilizes a whole cell catalyst according to the invention.

It is further preferred in this respect that amino acids like methionine, threonine, lysine or tert.-leucin are transformed by the aid of the whole cell catalyst.

The transformation discussed in this instance can be conducted in a batch process or continuous manner. Advantageously, an enzyme-membrane-ractor is used as the reaction vessel (Wandrey et al. in Jahrbuch 1998, Verfahrenstechnik und Chemieingenieurwesen, VDI S. 151ff.; Wandrey et al. in Applied Homogeneous Catalysis with Organometallic Compounds, Vol. 2, VCH 1996, S832 ff.; Kragl et al., Angew. Chem. 1996, 6, 684f; DE 19910691.6).

There is a further aspect of the invention, which is directed to a process for the production of a whole cell catalyst of the invention. The process is preferably conducted by using expression vectors pOM17, pOM18, pOM20, pOM22 and/or pOM21. In addition primers of SEQ. NO. 17, SEQ. NO. 18,

SEQ. NO. 15 and/or SEQ. NO. 16 are used with regard to the production of the whole cell catalyst.

In a further example, L-methionine was produced with a recombinant whole cell catalyst. Recombinant whole cell catalysts were prepared by co-expressing the evolved or wild-type hydantoinase with a hydantoin racemase and a L-carbamoylase in *E.coli* as follows.

Strains and expression vectors. The L-carbamoylase and hydantoinase expression vector pOM17 and pOM18 were constructed by PCR amplification of the *hyuC* and *hyu*H gene, respectively, from *Arthrobacter sp.* DSM 9771 using the following primer: for *hyuC*-amplification: 5'-AGGCGACATA-TGACCCTGCAGAAAGCGCAA-3' (SEQ. ID. NO. 17), 5'-ATGGGATCCCCGGT-CAAGTGCCTTCATTAC-3' (SEQ. ID. NO. 18); for hyuH-amplification: 5'-AGAACATATGTTTGACGTAATAGTTAAGAA-3' (SEQ. ID. NO. 15), 5'-AAAAGGATCCTCACTTCGACGCCTCGTA-3' (SEQ. ID. NO. 16). The amplified fragments were cleaved with the restriction enzymes NdeI and BamHI and inserted using the same restriction enzymes downstream the *rha* BAD promotor (rhamnose promotor) into the vector pJOE2702 (Volff, J.-N., Eichenseer, C., Viell, P., Piendl, W. & Altenbuchner, J. (1996) Nucleotide sequence and role in DNA amplification of the direct repeats composing the amplificable element AUDI of *Streptomyces lividans* 66. *Mol. Microbiol.* **21,** 1037-1047). The co-expression plasmid pOM20 comprising the L-carbamoylase and hydantoinase gene, both separately under the control of a rhamnose promotor, was derived from Plasmid pOM17 and pOM18. pOM17 was digested by SalI and treated with the Klenow fragment to form blunt ends. pOM18 was digested by BamHI and also treated with the Klenow fragment to form blunt ends. Both fragments were subsequently digested from HindII. The 152 kb-fragment comprising the carbamoylase gene and rhamnose promotor derived from pOM17 was ligated with the 5650kb-fragment of the digested pOM18 to yield pOM20. Mutations of the L-selective hydantoinase were introduced into pOM20 using the restriction enzymes RsrII and KasI which yielded pOM22. The racemase expression vector pOM21 was derived from pACYC184 (Rose, R.E. The nucleotide sequence of pACYC184. *Nucleic Acids Res.* **16,** 355 (1988)) and carries a chloramphenicol selection marker and the racemase gene *hyuR* from *Arthrobacter sp.* DSM3747 under the control of the rhamnose promotor. All plasmids were routinely transformed

into *E.coli* JM109 (Yanisch-Perron, C., Viera, J. & Messing, J. (1984) Improved M13 phage cloning vectors and host strains: nucleotide sequences of the M13 mp18 and pUC vectors. *Gene* **33**, 103-109). The hydantoin converting pathway was installed in *E.coli* JM109 by transformation of pOM20 and pOM22, respectively into *E.coli* JM109 (pOM21). Cells were either grown in LB liquid medium or on LB-agar plates (Luria. S.E., Adams, J.N. & Ting, R.C. (1960) Transduction of lactose-utilizing ability among strains of *Escherichia coli* and *Shigella dysenteriae* and properties of phage particles. *Virology* **12**, 348-390), both supplemented with the respective antiobiotics for the growth and expression medium (100 µg/ml ampicillin, 50 µg/ml chloramphenicol) and addition of 2 mg/ml rhamnose for the expression medium.

Error-prone PCR. Random mutagenesis of the hydantoinase gene was performed in a 100 µl reaction mix containing 0.25 ng of plasmid DNA as template, Boehringer PCR buffer (10 mM Tris, 1.5 mM $MgCl_2$, 50 mM KCl, pH 8.3), 200 µM dATP, 200 µM dTTP, 200 µM dGTP, 200 µM dCTP, 50 pmol of each primer, and 2.5U *Taq* polymerase (Boehringer). After 30 cycles, the 1667 amplification product was extracted from gel using the QiaexII gel-extraction kit (Qiagen, Valencia, CA) and subcloned into vector pJOE2702 using the *EcoRI* and *HindIII* restriction sites. Religation frequency of alkaline phosphatase treated vector was below 1%.

Saturation mutagenesis. For randomization of the codon for amino acid position 95, the QuickChange™ protocol (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA) was used. About 10 ng plasmid from clone 22CG2 were aplified by PCR using two complimentary oligonucleotides (5'-CATCGAGATGCCGNNNACCTTCCCG-CCCAC-3', 5-GTGGGCGGGAAGGTNNNCGGCATCTCGATG-3'). After PCR amplification the reaction mixture was treated for 2 hours with 20 U of the restriction enzyme DpnI. Transformation of 10 µl DpnI digested reaction mixture into competent cells yielded a library of more than 2000 mutants of which about 400 were screened.

Preparation of library and screening. Single colonies of transformed *E.coli* were transferred into 384-well plates (master plates) using the robot system Qbot (Genetix, Dorset, UK). After 20 hour growth at 37°C plates were stored at -80°C. For subsequent screening, plates were thawed and replicated into

96-well plates containing 200 µl per well inductor medium. A Biomek 1000 pipetting workstation (Beckman, Fullerton, CA) was used to divide the 24 hours at 30°C incubated plate into two fresh 96-well plates one containing 100 µl 80 mM L-MTEH the other 100 µl 80mM D-MTEH in 50 mg/l cresol red solution adjusted to pH 8.5. Initial absorbance at 580 nm and after 3 hours incubation at room temperature were measured using a THERMOmax plate reader (Molecular Devices, Sunnyvale, CA). Activity was calculated from the difference of initial and absorbance after 3 hours incubation divided by the cell density of each well. For the saturation mutagenesis library incubation time was reduced to 1.5 hours. The ratio of activity towards the L- and D-enantiomer was taken as a first indicator for enantioselectivity. Identified clones were then tested using the racemic substrate under conditions described below.

Characterization of activity and enantioselectivity. Plasmid of mutant found to be positive in the screen was sequenced and retransformed into *E.coli*. A culture of retransformed *E.coli* was grown for 16-18 hours (until OD10) in inductor medium supplemented with 1mM $MnCl_2$. 2 ml substrate solution consisting of 80 mM D,L-MTEH, 0.1M Tris pH 8.5, 1 mM $MnCl_2$ (pre-incubated at 37°C) were added to 2 ml cell culture (OD600~7). The reaction mixture was immediately incubated at 37°C in a water bath. After different time periods (as specified in the text) 1 ml samples were taken and centrifuged for 5 minutes at 14,000 rpm. 20 µl of supernatant were analyzed by chiral HPLC using a column manufactured by Degussa-Huels AG. Activity was calculated from the amount of produced N-carbamoyl-D,L-methionine and expressed as U/ml cell culture of U/mg cell dry weight (CDW) were 1U is the amount of whole-cell catalyst to produce 1 µmol N-carbamoyl-D,L-methionine in one minute under stated reaction conditions. Enantioselectivity of the hydantoinase and its mutants were compared by calculating the percentage of ee_D ((D-L)/(D+L)) and ee_L ((L-D)/(L+D) respectively for the product at various extents of conversion. A conventional determination of E (enantiomeric ratio) from ee-values and the extent of conversion as described by Chen et al. (Chen, C.S., Fujimoto, Y., Girdaukas, G. & Sih, C.J. (1982) Quantitative analysis of biochemical kinetic resolutions of enantiomers. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **104**, 7294-7299) is not possible because of the fast racemization of the substrate.

Conversion of D,L-MTEH into L-met. 8 mg cell dry mass of *E.coli* JM109 (pOM20 & pOM21) and *E.coli* JM109 (pOM 22 & pOM21) were added to 4 ml 100 mM D,L-MTEH in 0.1 M Tris pH 7.8 supplemented with 1mM $MnCl_2$. The reaction mixture was incubated at 37°C. Samples were analyzed after indicated periods of time and analyzed by HPLC for MTEH, D,L-C met, and D,L-met as described in Völkel, D. & Wagner, F. Reaction (1995) mechanism for the conversion of 5-monosubstituted hydantoins to enantiomerically pure L-amino acids. *Ann. NY Acad. Sci.* **750**, 1-9. The optical purity of the compounds was analyzed by chiral HPLC as described above.

As shown in FIG. 5, the conversion of D,L-MTEH into L-met is significantly improved for the catalyst with the evolved hydantoinase. After three hours, approximately 60 mM L-met was produced from 100 mM D,L-MTEH, whereas the whole cell catalyst with the wild-type pathway produced only 10 mM of the amino acid. The concentration of the D-C met intermediate was reduced by a factor of 4 and the productivity for the production of L-amino acid was 8-fold increased during the first hour of the reaction.

Having thus described exemplary embodiments of the present invention, it should be noted by those skilled in the art that the within disclosures are exemplary only and that various other alternatives, adaptations, and modifications may be made within the scope of the present invention. Accordingly, the present invention is not limited to the specific embodiments as illustrated herein, but is only limited by the following claims.

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SEQUENCE LISTING

(1) GENERAL INFORMATION:

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May, Oliver

(ii) TITLE OF INVENTION: Hydantoinase Variants With Improved Properties And Their Use For The Production Of Amino Acids

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(A) MEDIUM TYPE: Floppy Disk
(B) COMPUTER: IBM PC compatible
(C) OPERATING SYSTEM: Microsoft Windows 98
(D) SOFTWARE: MS Word

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(A) APPLICATION NUMBER:
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(C) CLASSIFICATION:

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(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 1:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 1377 nucleotides
(B) TYPE: nucleotide
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: nucleic acid

(ix) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 1

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gcgagccgaa ccattgacgc gggtggcaag ttcgtgatgc cgggcgtggt cgatgaacat     180
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tctgcggccg tgggaggcat caccaccatc atcgagatgc cgataacctt cccgcccacc     300
accactttgg acgccttcct cgaaaagaag aagcaggcgg ggcagcggtt gaaagttgac     360
ttcgcgctct atggcggtgg agtgccggga aacctgcccg agatccgcaa aatgcacgac     420
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(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 2:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 458 amino acids
(B) TYPE: amino acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(ix) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 2

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Ile Thr Glu Ala Asp Ile Leu Val Lys Asp Gly Lys Val Ala Ala Ile
            20                  25                  30

Ser Ser Asp Thr Ser Asp Val Glu Ala Ser Arg Thr Ile Asp Ala Gly
        35                  40                  45

Gly Lys Phe Val Met Phe Gly Val Val Asp Glu His Val His Ile Ile
    50                  55                  60

Asp Met Asp Leu Lys Asn Arg Tyr Gly Arg Phe Glu Leu Asp Ser Glu
65                  70                  75                  80
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Ser Ala Ala Val Gly Gly Ile Thr Thr Ile Ile Glu Met Pro Ile Thr
                85                  90                  95

Phe Pro Pro Thr Thr Thr Leu Asp Ala Phe Leu Glu Lys Lys Lys Gln
            100                 105                 110

Ala Gly Gln Arg Leu Lys Val Asp Phe Ala Leu Tyr Gly Gly Gly Val
        115                 120                 125

Pro Gly Asn Leu Pro Glu Ile Arg Lys Met His Asp Ala Gly Ala Val
    130                 135                 140

Gly Phe Lys Ser Met Met Ala Ala Ser Val Pro Gly Met Phe Asp Ala
145                 150                 155                 160

Val Ser Asp Gly Glu Leu Phe Glu Ile Phe Gln Glu Ile Ala Ala Cys
                165                 170                 175

Gly Ser Val Val Val Val His Ala Glu Asn Glu Thr Ile Ile Gln Ala
            180                 185                 190

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        195                 200                 205

Glu Ala Ser Gln Pro Val Phe Gln Glu Asn Glu Ala Ile Gln Arg Ala
    210                 215                 220

Leu Leu Leu Gln Lys Glu Ala Gly Cys Arg Leu Ile Val Leu His Val
225                 230                 235                 240

Ser Asn Pro Asp Gly Val Glu Leu Ile His Gln Ala Gln Ser Glu Gly
                245                 250                 255

Gln Asp Val His Cys Glu Ser Gly Pro Gln Tyr Leu Asn Ile Thr Thr
            260                 265                 270

Asp Asp Ala Glu Arg Ile Gly Pro Tyr Met Lys Val Ala Pro Pro Val
        275                 280                 285

Arg Ser Ala Glu Met Asn Val Arg Leu Trp Glu Gln Leu Glu Asn Gly
    290                 295                 300

Leu Ile Asp Thr Leu Gly Ser Asp His Gly Gly His Pro Val Glu Asp
305                 310                 315                 320

Lys Glu Pro Gly Trp Lys Asp Val Trp Lys Ala Gly Asn Gly Ala Leu
                325                 330                 335

Gly Leu Glu Thr Ser Leu Pro Met Met Leu Thr Asn Gly Val Asn Lys
            340                 345                 350

Gly Arg Leu Ser Leu Glu Arg Leu Val Glu Val Met Cys Glu Lys Pro
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Ala Lys Leu Phe Glu Ile Tyr Pro Gln Lys Gly Thr Leu Gln Val Gly
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(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 3:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 1377 nucleotides
(B) TYPE: nucleotide
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: nucleic acid

(ix) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 3

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gcgagccgaa ccattgacgc gggtggcaag ttcgtgatgc cgggcgtggt cgatgaacat  240
tctgcggccg tgggaggcat caccaccatc atcgagatgc cgataacctt cccgcccacc  300
accactttgg acgccttcct cgaaaagaag aagcaggcgg ggcagcggtt gaaagttgac  360
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gccggcgcag tgggcttcaa gtcaatgatg gcagcctcag ctccgggcat gttcgacgcc  480
gtcagcgacg gcgaactgtt cgaaatcttc caggagatcg cagcctgtgg ttcagtcgtc  540
gtggtccatg ccgagaatga aacgatcatt caagcgctcc agaagcagat caaagccgct  600
ggtcgcaagg acatggccgc ctacgaggca tcccaaccag ttttccagga gaacgaggcc  660
attcagcgtg cgttactact gcagaaagaa gccggctgtc gactgattgt gcttcacgtg  720
agcaaccctg acggggtcga gctgatacat caggcgcaat ccgagggcca ggacgtccac  780
tgcgagtcgg gtccgcagta tctgaatatc accacggacg acgccgaacg aatcggaccg  840
tatatgaagg tcgcgccgcc cgtccgctca gccgagatga acgtcagatt atgggaacaa  900
cttgagaacg ggctcatcga cacccttggg tcagaccacg gcggacatcc tgtcgaggac  960
aaagaacccg gctggaagga cgtgtggaaa gccggcaacg gtgcgctggg ccttgagaca 1020
tccctgccta tgatgctgac caacggagtg aataaaggca ggctatcctt ggaacgcctc 1080
gtcgaggtga tgtgcgagaa acctgcgaag ctctttggca tctatccgca gaagggcacg 1140
ctacaggttg gttccgacgc cgatctgctc atcctcgatc tggatattga caccaaagtg 1200
gatgcctcgc agttccgatc cctgcataag tacagcccgt tcgacgggat gcccgtcacg 1260
ggtgcaccgg ttctgacgat ggtgcgcgga acggtggtgg cagagaaggg agaagttctg 1320
gtcgagcagg gattcggcca gttcgtcacc cgtcacgact acgaggcgtc gaagtga     1377
```

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 4:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 458 amino acids
(B) TYPE: amino acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(ix) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 4

```
Met Phe Asp Val Ile Val Lys Asn Cys Arg Met Val Ser Ser Asp Gly
                5                  10                  15

Ile Thr Glu Ala Asp Ile Leu Val Lys Asp Gly Lys Val Ala Ala Ile
            20                  25                  30

Ser Ser Asp Thr Ser Asp Val Glu Ala Ser Arg Thr Ile Asp Ala Gly
        35                  40                  45

Gly Lys Phe Val Met Phe Gly Val Val Asp Glu His Val His Ile Ile
    50                  55                  60

Asp Met Asp Leu Lys Asn Arg Tyr Gly Arg Phe Glu Leu Asp Ser Glu
65                  70                  75                  80

Ser Ala Ala Val Gly Gly Ile Thr Thr Ile Ile Glu Met Pro Ile Thr
                85                  90                  95

Phe Pro Pro Thr Thr Thr Leu Asp Ala Phe Leu Glu Lys Lys Lys Gln
            100                 105                 110

Ala Gly Gln Arg Leu Lys Val Asp Phe Ala Leu Tyr Gly Gly Gly Val
        115                 120                 125

Pro Gly Asn Leu Pro Glu Ile Arg Lys Met His Asp Ala Gly Ala Val
    130                 135                 140

Gly Phe Lys Ser Met Met Ala Ala Ser Ala Pro Gly Met Phe Asp Ala
145                 150                 155                 160

Val Ser Asp Gly Glu Leu Phe Glu Ile Phe Gln Glu Ile Ala Ala Cys
                165                 170                 175

Gly Ser Val Val Val Val His Ala Glu Asn Glu Thr Ile Ile Gln Ala
            180                 185                 190

Leu Gln Lys Gln Ile Lys Ala Ala Gly Arg Lys Asp Met Ala Ala Tyr
        195                 200                 205

Glu Ala Ser Gln Pro Val Phe Gln Glu Asn Glu Ala Ile Gln Arg Ala
    210                 215                 220

Leu Leu Leu Gln Lys Glu Ala Gly Cys Arg Leu Ile Val Leu His Val
225                 230                 235                 240
```

```
Ser Asn Pro Asp Gly Val Glu Leu Ile His Gln Ala Gln Ser Glu Gly
                245                 250                 255

Gln Asp Val His Cys Glu Ser Gly Pro Gln Tyr Leu Asn Ile Thr Thr
            260                 265                 270

Asp Asp Ala Glu Arg Ile Gly Pro Tyr Met Lys Val Ala Pro Pro Val
        275                 280                 285

Arg Ser Ala Glu Met Asn Val Arg Leu Trp Glu Gln Leu Glu Asn Gly
    290                 295                 300

Leu Ile Asp Thr Leu Gly Ser Asp His Gly Gly His Pro Val Glu Asp
305                 310                 315                 320

Lys Glu Pro Gly Trp Lys Asp Val Trp Lys Ala Gly Asn Gly Ala Leu
                325                 330                 335

Gly Leu Glu Thr Ser Leu Pro Met Met Leu Thr Asn Gly Val Asn Lys
            340                 345                 350

Gly Arg Leu Ser Leu Glu Arg Leu Val Glu Val Met Cys Glu Lys Pro
        355                 360                 365

Ala Lys Leu Phe Glu Ile Tyr Pro Gln Lys Gly Thr Leu Gln Val Gly
    370                 375                 380

Ser Asp Ala Asp Leu Leu Ile Leu Asp Leu Asp Ile Asp Thr Lys Val
385                 390                 395                 400

Asp Ala Ser Gln Phe Arg Ser Leu His Lys Tyr Ser Pro Phe Asp Gly
                405                 410                 415

Met Pro Val Thr Gly Ala Pro Val Leu Thr Met Val Arg Gly Thr Val
            420                 425                 430

Val Ala Glu Lys Gly Glu Val Leu Val Glu Gln Gly Phe Gly Gln Phe
        435                 440                 445

Val Thr Arg His Asp Tyr Glu Ala Ser Lys
    450                 455         458
```

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 5:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 1377 nucleotides
(B) TYPE: nucleotide
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: nucleic acid

(ix) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 5

```
atgtttgacg taatagttaa gaactgccgt atggtgtcca gcgacggaat caccgaggca        60
```

```
gacattctgg tgaaagacgg caaagtcgcc gcaatcagct cggacacaag tgatgttgag      120
gcgagccgaa ccattgacgc gggtggcaag ttcgtgatgc cgggcgtggt cgatgaacat      180
gcgagccgaa ccattgacgc gggtggcaag ttcgtgatgc cgggcgtggt cgatgaacat      240
tctgcggccg tgggaggcat caccaccatc atcgagatgc cgttaacctt cccgcccacc      300
accactttgg acgccttcct cgaaaagaag aagcaggcgg ggcagcggtt gaaagttgac      360
ttcgcgctct atggcggtgg agtgccggga aacctgcccg agatccgcaa aatgcacgac      420
gccggcgcag tgggcttcaa gtcaatgatg gcagcctcag ttccgggcat gttcgacgcc      480
gtcagcgacg gcgaactgtt cgaaatcttc caggagatcg cagcctgtgg ttcagtcgtc      540
gtggtccatg ccgagaatga aacgatcatt caagcgctcc agaagcagat caaagccgct      600
ggtcgcaagg acatggccgc ctacgaggca tcccaaccag ttttccagga gaacgaggcc      660
attcagcgtg cgttactact gcagaaagaa gccggctgtc gactgattgt gcttcacgtg      720
agcaaccctg acggggtcga gctgatacat caggcgcaat ccgagggcca ggacgtccac      780
tgcgagtcgg gtccgcagta tctgaatatc accacggacg acgccgaacg aatcggaccg      840
tatatgaagg tcgcgccgcc cgtccgctca gccgagatga acgtcagatt atgggaacaa      900
cttgagaacg ggctcatcga caccttggg tcagaccacg gcggacatcc tgtcgaggac      960
aaagaacccg gctggaagga cgtgtggaaa gccggcaacg gtgcgctggg ccttgagaca     1020
tccctgccta tgatgctgac caacggagtg aataaaggca ggctatcctt ggaacgcctc     1080
gtcgaggtga tgtgcgagaa acctgcgaag ctctttggca tctatccgca gaagggcacg     1140
ctacaggttg gttccgacgc cgatctgctc atcctcgatc tggatattga caccaaagtg     1200
gatgcctcgc agttccgatc cctgcataag tacagcccgt tcgacgggat gcccgtcacg     1260
ggtgcaccgg ttctgacgat ggtgcgcgga acggtggtgg cagagaaggg agaagttctg     1320
gtcgagcagg gattcggcca gttcgtcacc cgtcacgact acgaggcgtc gaagtga        1377
```

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 6:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 458 amino acids
(B) TYPE: amino acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(ix) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 6

```
Met Phe Asp Val Ile Val Lys Asn Cys Arg Met Val Ser Ser Asp Gly
 5                  10                  15

Ile Thr Glu Ala Asp Ile Leu Val Lys Asp Gly Lys Val Ala Ala Ile
            20                  25                  30

Ser Ser Asp Thr Ser Asp Val Glu Ala Ser Arg Thr Ile Asp Ala Gly
        35                  40                  45

Gly Lys Phe Val Met Phe Gly Val Val Asp Glu His Val His Ile Ile
    50                  55                  60

Asp Met Asp Leu Lys Asn Arg Tyr Gly Arg Phe Glu Leu Asp Ser Glu
65                  70                  75                  80

Ser Ala Ala Val Gly Gly Ile Thr Thr Ile Ile Glu Met Pro Leu Thr
                85                  90                  95

Phe Pro Pro Thr Thr Thr Leu Asp Ala Phe Leu Glu Lys Lys Lys Gln
            100                 105                 110
```

```
Ala Gly Gln Arg Leu Lys Val Asp Phe Ala Leu Tyr Gly Gly Gly Val
        115                 120                 125

Pro Gly Asn Leu Pro Glu Ile Arg Lys Met His Asp Ala Gly Ala Val
    130                 135                 140

Gly Phe Lys Ser Met Met Ala Ala Ser Val Pro Gly Met Phe Asp Ala
145                 150                 155                 160

Val Ser Asp Gly Glu Leu Phe Glu Ile Phe Gln Glu Ile Ala Ala Cys
                165                 170                 175

Gly Ser Val Val Val Val His Ala Glu Asn Glu Thr Ile Ile Gln Ala
            180                 185                 190

Leu Gln Lys Gln Ile Lys Ala Ala Gly Arg Lys Asp Met Ala Ala Tyr
        195                 200                 205

Glu Ala Ser Gln Pro Val Phe Gln Glu Asn Glu Ala Ile Gln Arg Ala
    210                 215                 220

Leu Leu Leu Gln Lys Glu Ala Gly Cys Arg Leu Ile Val Leu His Val
225                 230                 235                 240

Ser Asn Pro Asp Gly Val Glu Leu Ile His Arg Ala Gln Ser Glu Gly
                245                 250                 255

Gln Asp Val His Cys Glu Ser Gly Pro Gln Tyr Leu Asn Ile Thr Thr
            260                 265                 270

Asp Asp Ala Glu Arg Ile Gly Pro Tyr Met Lys Val Ala Pro Pro Val
        275                 280                 285

Arg Ser Ala Glu Met Asn Val Arg Leu Trp Glu Gln Leu Glu Asn Gly
    290                 295                 300

Leu Ile Asp Thr Leu Gly Ser Asp His Gly Gly His Pro Val Glu Asp
305                 310                 315                 320

Lys Glu Pro Gly Trp Lys Asp Val Trp Lys Ala Gly Asn Gly Ala Leu
                325                 330                 335

Gly Leu Glu Thr Ser Leu Pro Met Met Leu Thr Asn Gly Val Asn Lys
            340                 345                 350

Gly Arg Leu Ser Leu Glu Arg Leu Val Glu Val Met Cys Glu Lys Pro
        355                 360                 365

Ala Lys Leu Phe Glu Ile Tyr Pro Gln Lys Gly Thr Leu Gln Val Gly
    370                 375                 380

Ser Asp Ala Asp Leu Leu Ile Leu Asp Leu Asp Ile Asp Thr Lys Val
385                 390                 395                 400
```

```
Asp Ala Ser Gln Phe Arg Ser Leu His Lys Tyr Ser Pro Phe Asp Gly
                405                 410                 415

Met Pro Val Thr Gly Ala Pro Val Leu Thr Met Val Arg Gly Thr Val
            420                 425                 430

Val Ala Glu Lys Gly Glu Val Leu Val Glu Gln Gly Phe Gly Gln Phe
        435                 440                 445

Val Thr Arg His Asp Tyr Glu Ala Ser Lys
    450                 455         458
```

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 7:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 1377 nucleotides
(B) TYPE: nucleotide
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: nucleic acid

(ix) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 7

```
atgtttgacg taatagttaa gaactgccgt atggtgtcca gcgacggaat caccgaggca      60
gacattctgg tgaaagacgg caaagtcgcc gcaatcagct cggacacaag tgatgttgag     120
gcgagccgaa ccattgacgc gggtggcaag ttcgtgatgc cgggcgtggt cgatgaacat     180
gcgagccgaa ccattgacgc gggtggcaag ttcgtgatgc cgggcgtggt cgatgaacat     240
tctgcggccg tgggaggcat caccaccatc atcgagatgc cgataacctt cccgcccacc     300
accactttgg acgccttcct cgaaaagaag aagcaggcgg ggcagcggtt gaaagttgac     360
ttcgcgctct atggcggtgg agtgccggga aacctgcccg agatccgcaa aatgcacgac     420
gccggcgcag tgggcttcaa gtcaatgatg gcagcctcag ttccgggcat gttcgacgcc     480
gtcagcgacg gcgaactgtt cgaaatcttc caggagatcg cagcctgtgg ttcagtcgtc     540
gtggtccatg ccgagaatga aacgatcatt caagcgctcc agaagcagat caaagccgct     600
ggtcgcaagg acatggccgc ctacgaggca tcccaaccag ttttccagga gaacgaggcc     660
attcagcgtg cgttactact gcagaaagaa gccggctgtc gactgattgt gcttcacgtg     720
agcaaccctg acggggtcga gctgatacat caggcgcaat ccgagggcca ggacgtccac     780
tgcgagtcgg gtccgcagta tctgaatatc accacggacg acgccgaacg aatcggaccg     840
tatatgaagg tcgcgccgcc cgtccgctca gccgagatga acgccagatt atgggaacaa     900
cttgagaacg ggctcatcga cacccttggg tcagaccacg gcggacatcc tgtcgaggac     960
aaagaacccg gctggaagga cgtgtggaaa gccggcaacg gtgcgctggg ccttgagaca    1020
tccctgccta tgatgctgac caacggagtg aataaaggca ggctatcctt ggaacgcctc    1080
gtcgaggtga tgtgcgagaa acctgcgaag ctctttggca tctatccgca gaagggcacg    1140
ctacaggttg gttccgacgc cgatctgctc atcctcgatc tggatattga caccaaagtg    1200
gatgcctcgc agttccgatc cctgcataag tacagcccgt tcgacgggat gcccgtcacg    1260
ggtgcaccgg ttctgacgat ggtgcgcgga acggtggtgg cagagaaggg agaagttctg    1320
gtcgagcagg gattcggcca gttcgtcacc cgtcacgact acgaggcgtc gaagtga       1377
```

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 8:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 458 amino acids
(B) TYPE: amino acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(ix) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 8

```
Met Phe Asp Val Ile Val Lys Asn Cys Arg Met Val Ser Ser Asp Gly
                5                  10                  15

Ile Thr Glu Ala Asp Ile Leu Val Lys Asp Gly Lys Val Ala Ala Ile
            20                  25                  30

Ser Ser Asp Thr Ser Asp Val Glu Ala Ser Arg Thr Ile Asp Ala Gly
        35                  40                  45

Gly Lys Phe Val Met Phe Gly Val Val Asp Glu His Val His Ile Ile
    50                  55                  60

Asp Met Asp Leu Lys Asn Arg Tyr Gly Arg Phe Glu Leu Asp Ser Glu
65                  70                  75                  80

Ser Ala Ala Val Gly Gly Ile Thr Thr Ile Ile Glu Met Pro Ile Thr
                85                  90                  95

Phe Pro Pro Thr Thr Thr Leu Asp Ala Phe Leu Glu Lys Lys Lys Gln
            100                 105                 110

Ala Gly Gln Arg Leu Lys Val Asp Phe Ala Leu Tyr Gly Gly Gly Val
        115                 120                 125

Pro Gly Asn Leu Pro Glu Ile Arg Lys Met His Asp Ala Gly Ala Val
    130                 135                 140

Gly Phe Lys Ser Met Met Ala Ala Ser Val Pro Gly Met Phe Asp Ala
145                 150                 155                 160

Val Ser Asp Gly Glu Leu Phe Glu Ile Phe Gln Glu Ile Ala Ala Cys
                165                 170                 175

Gly Ser Val Val Val Val His Ala Glu Asn Glu Thr Ile Ile Gln Ala
            180                 185                 190

Leu Gln Lys Gln Ile Lys Ala Ala Gly Arg Lys Asp Met Ala Ala Tyr
        195                 200                 205

Glu Ala Ser Gln Pro Val Phe Gln Glu Asn Glu Ala Ile Gln Arg Ala
    210                 215                 220

Leu Leu Leu Gln Lys Glu Ala Gly Cys Arg Leu Ile Val Leu His Val
225                 230                 235                 240

Ser Asn Pro Asp Gly Val Glu Leu Ile His Gln Ala Gln Ser Glu Gly
                245                 250                 255

Gln Asp Val His Cys Glu Ser Gly Pro Gln Tyr Leu Asn Ile Thr Thr
            260                 265                 270
```

```
Asp Asp Ala Glu Arg Ile Gly Pro Tyr Met Lys Val Ala Pro Pro Val
        275                 280                 285

Arg Ser Ala Glu Met Asn Ala Arg Leu Trp Glu Gln Leu Glu Asn Gly
    290                 295                 300

Leu Ile Asp Thr Leu Gly Ser Asp His Gly Gly His Pro Val Glu Asp
305                 310                 315                 320

Lys Glu Pro Gly Trp Lys Asp Val Trp Lys Ala Gly Asn Gly Ala Leu
                325                 330                 335

Gly Leu Glu Thr Ser Leu Pro Met Met Leu Thr Asn Gly Val Asn Lys
            340                 345                 350

Gly Arg Leu Ser Leu Glu Arg Leu Val Glu Val Met Cys Glu Lys Pro
        355                 360                 365

Ala Lys Leu Phe Glu Ile Tyr Pro Gln Lys Gly Thr Leu Gln Val Gly
    370                 375                 380

Ser Asp Ala Asp Leu Leu Ile Leu Asp Leu Asp Ile Asp Thr Lys Val
385                 390                 395                 400

Asp Ala Ser Gln Phe Arg Ser Leu His Lys Tyr Ser Pro Phe Asp Gly
                405                 410                 415

Met Pro Val Thr Gly Ala Pro Val Leu Thr Met Val Arg Gly Thr Val
            420                 425                 430

Val Ala Glu Lys Gly Glu Val Leu Val Glu Gln Gly Phe Gly Gln Phe
        435                 440                 445

Val Thr Arg His Asp Tyr Glu Ala Ser Lys
    450                 455         458
```

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 9:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 1377 nucleotides
(B) TYPE: nucleotide
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: nucleic acid

(ix) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 9

```
atgtttgacg taatagttaa gaactgccgt atggtgtcca gcgacggaat caccgaggca      60
gacattctgg tgaaagacgg caaagtcgcc gcaatcagct cggacacaag tgatgttgag     120
gcgagccgaa ccattgacgc gggtggcaag ttcgtgatgc cgggcgtggt cgatgaacat     180
gcgagccgaa ccattgacgc gggtggcaag ttcgtgatgc cgggcgtggt cgatgaacat     240
tctgcggccg tgggaggcat caccaccatc atcgagatgc cgttaacctt cccgcccacc     300
accactttgg acgccttcct cgaaaagaag aagcaggcgg ggcagcggtt gaaagttgac     360
```

```
ttcgcgctct atggcggtgg agtgccggga aacctgcccg agatccgcaa aatgcacgac      420
gccggcgcag tgggcttcaa gtcaatgatg gcagcctcag ttccgggcat gttcgacgcc      480
gtcagcgacg gcgaactgtt cgaaatcttc caggagatcg cagcctgtgg ttcagtcgtc      540
gtggtccatg ccgagaatga aacgatcatt caagcgctcc agaagcagat caaagccgct      600
ggtcgcaagg acatggccgc ctacgaggca tcccaaccag ttttccagga gaacgaggcc      660
attcagcgtg cgttactact gcagaaagaa gccggctgtc gactgattgt gcttcacgtg      720
agcaaccctg acggggtcga gctgatacat caggcgcaat ccgagggcca ggacgtccac      780
tgcgagtcgg gtccgcagta tctgaatatc accacggacg acgccgaacg aatcggaccg      840
tatatgaagg tcgcgccgcc cgtccgctca gccgaaatga acgtcagatt atgggaacaa      900
cttgagaacg ggctcatcga cacccttggg tcagaccacg gcggacatcc tgtcgaggac      960
aaagaacccg gctggaagga cgtgtggaaa gccggcaacg gtgcgctggg ccttgagaca     1020
tccctgccta tgatgctgac caacggagtg aataaaggca ggctatcctt ggaacgcctc     1080
gtcgaggtga tgtgcgagaa acctgcgaag ctctttggca tctatccgca gaagggcacg     1140
ctacaggttg gttccgacgc cgatctgctc atcctcgatc tggatattga caccaaagtg     1200
gatgcctcgc agttccgatc cctgcataag tacagcccgt tcgacgggat gcccgtcacg     1260
ggtgcaccgg ttctgacgat ggtgcgcgga acggtggtgg cagagaaggg agaagttctg     1320
gtcgagcagg gattcggcca gttcgtcacc cgtcacgact acgaggcgtc gaagtga        1377
```

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 10:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 458 amino acids
(B) TYPE: amino acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(ix) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 10

```
Met Phe Asp Val Ile Val Lys Asn Cys Arg Met Val Ser Ser Asp Gly
                  5                  10                  15

Ile Thr Glu Ala Asp Ile Leu Val Lys Asp Gly Lys Val Ala Ala Ile
            20                  25                  30

Ser Ser Asp Thr Ser Asp Val Glu Ala Ser Arg Thr Ile Asp Ala Gly
        35                  40                  45

Gly Lys Phe Val Met Phe Gly Val Val Asp Glu His Val His Ile Ile
    50                  55                  60

Asp Met Asp Leu Lys Asn Arg Tyr Gly Arg Phe Glu Leu Asp Ser Glu
65                  70                  75                  80

Ser Ala Ala Val Gly Gly Ile Thr Thr Ile Ile Glu Met Pro Leu Thr
                85                  90                  95

Phe Pro Pro Thr Thr Thr Leu Asp Ala Phe Leu Glu Lys Lys Lys Gln
            100                 105                 110

Ala Gly Gln Arg Leu Lys Val Asp Phe Ala Leu Tyr Gly Gly Gly Val
        115                 120                 125
```

```
Pro Gly Asn Leu Pro Glu Ile Arg Lys Met His Asp Ala Gly Ala Val
    130                 135                 140

Gly Phe Lys Ser Met Met Ala Ala Ser Val Pro Gly Met Phe Asp Ala
145                 150                 155                 160

Val Ser Asp Gly Glu Leu Phe Glu Ile Phe Gln Glu Ile Ala Ala Cys
                165                 170                 175

Gly Ser Val Val Val Val His Ala Glu Asn Glu Thr Ile Ile Gln Ala
            180                 185                 190

Leu Gln Lys Gln Ile Lys Ala Ala Gly Arg Lys Asp Met Ala Ala Tyr
        195                 200                 205

Glu Ala Ser Gln Pro Val Phe Gln Glu Asn Glu Ala Ile Gln Arg Ala
    210                 215                 220

Leu Leu Leu Gln Lys Glu Ala Gly Cys Arg Leu Ile Val Leu His Val
225                 230                 235                 240

Ser Asn Pro Asp Gly Val Glu Leu Ile His Gln Ala Gln Ser Glu Gly
                245                 250                 255

Gln Asp Val His Cys Glu Ser Gly Pro Gln Tyr Leu Asn Ile Thr Thr
            260                 265                 270

Asp Asp Ala Glu Arg Ile Gly Pro Tyr Met Lys Val Ala Pro Pro Val
        275                 280                 285

Arg Ser Ala Glu Met Asn Val Arg Leu Trp Glu Gln Leu Glu Asn Gly
    290                 295                 300

Leu Ile Asp Thr Leu Gly Ser Asp His Gly Gly His Pro Val Glu Asp
305                 310                 315                 320

Lys Glu Pro Gly Trp Lys Asp Val Trp Lys Ala Gly Asn Gly Ala Leu
                325                 330                 335

Gly Leu Glu Thr Ser Leu Pro Met Met Leu Thr Asn Gly Val Asn Lys
            340                 345                 350

Gly Arg Leu Ser Leu Glu Arg Leu Val Glu Val Met Cys Glu Lys Pro
        355                 360                 365

Ala Lys Leu Phe Glu Ile Tyr Pro Gln Lys Gly Thr Leu Gln Val Gly
    370                 375                 380

Ser Asp Ala Asp Leu Leu Ile Leu Asp Leu Asp Ile Asp Thr Lys Val
385                 390                 395                 400

Asp Ala Ser Gln Phe Arg Ser Leu His Lys Tyr Ser Pro Phe Asp Gly
                405                 410                 415

Met Pro Val Thr Gly Ala Pro Val Leu Thr Met Val Arg Gly Thr Val
            420                 425                 430
```

Val Ala Glu Lys Gly Glu Val Leu Val Glu Gln Gly Phe Gly Gln Phe
435 440 445

Val Thr Arg His Asp Tyr Glu Ala Ser Lys
450 455 458

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 11:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 1377 nucleotides
(B) TYPE: nucleotide
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: nucleic acid

(ix) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 11

atgtttgacg taatagttaa gaactgccgt atggtgtcca gcgacggaat caccgaggca 60
gacattctgg tgaaagacgg caaagtcgcc gcaatcagct cggacacaag tgatgttgag 120
gcgagccgaa ccattgacgc gggtggcaag ttcgtgatgc cgggcgtggt cgatgaacat 180
gcgagccgaa ccattgacgc gggtggcaag ttcgtgatgc cgggcgtggt cgatgaacat 240
tctgcggccg tgggaggcat caccaccatc atcgagatgc cgttaacctt cccgcccacc 300
accactttgg acgccttcct cgaaaagaag aagcaggcgg ggcagcggtt gaaagttgac 360
ttcgcgctct atggcggtgg agtgccggga aacctgcccg agatccgcaa aatgcacgac 420
gccggcgcag tgggcttcaa gtcaatgatg gcagcctcag ttccgggcat gttcgacgcc 480
gtcagcgacg gcgaactgtt cgaaatcttc caggagatcg cagcctgtgg ttcagtcgcc 540
gtggtccatg ccgagaatga aacgatcatt caagcgctcc agaagcagat caaagccgct 600
ggtcgcaagg acatggccgc ctacgaggca tcccaaccag ttttccagga gaacgaggcc 660
attcagcgtg cgttactact gcagaaagaa gccggctgtc gactgattgt gcttcacgtg 720
agcaaccctg acggggtcga gctgatacat cgggcgcaat ccgagggcca ggacgtccac 780
tgcgagtcgg gtccgcagta tctgaatatc accacggacg acgccgaacg aatcggaccg 840
tatatgaagg tcgcgccgcc cgtccgctca gccgagatga acgtcagatt atgggaacaa 900
cttgagaacg ggctcatcga cacccttggg tcagaccacg gcggacatcc tgtcgaggac 960
aaagaacccg gctggaagga cgtgtggaaa gccggcaacg gtgcgctggg ccttgagaca 1020
tccctgccta tgatgctgac caacggagtg aataaaggca ggctatcctt ggaacgcctc 1080
gtcgaggtga tgtgcgagaa acctgcgaag ctctttggca tctatccgca gaagggcacg 1140
ctacaggttg gttccgacgc cgatctgctc atcctcgatc tggatattga caccaaagtg 1200
gatgcctcgc agttccgatc cctgcataag tacagcccgt tcgacgggat gcccgtcacg 1260
ggtgcaccgg ttctgacgat ggtgcgcgga acggtggtgg cagagaaggg agaagttctg 1320
gtcgagcagg gattcggcca gttcgtcacc cgtcacgact acgaggcgtc gaagtga 1377

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 12:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 458 amino acids
(B) TYPE: amino acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(ix) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 12

Met Phe Asp Val Ile Val Lys Asn Cys Arg Met Val Ser Ser Asp Gly
5 10 15

Ile Thr Glu Ala Asp Ile Leu Val Lys Asp Gly Lys Val Ala Ala Ile
20 25 30

Ser Ser Asp Thr Ser Asp Val Glu Ala Ser Arg Thr Ile Asp Ala Gly
35 40 45

Gly Lys Phe Val Met Phe Gly Val Val Asp Glu His Val His Ile Ile
50 55 60

Asp Met Asp Leu Lys Asn Arg Tyr Gly Arg Phe Glu Leu Asp Ser Glu
65 70 75 80

Ser Ala Ala Val Gly Gly Ile Thr Thr Ile Ile Glu Met Pro Leu Thr
85 90 95

Phe Pro Pro Thr Thr Thr Leu Asp Ala Phe Leu Glu Lys Lys Lys Gln
100 105 110

Ala Gly Gln Arg Leu Lys Val Asp Phe Ala Leu Tyr Gly Gly Gly Val
115 120 125

Pro Gly Asn Leu Pro Glu Ile Arg Lys Met His Asp Ala Gly Ala Val
130 135 140

Gly Phe Lys Ser Met Met Ala Ala Ser Val Pro Gly Met Phe Asp Ala
145 150 155 160

Val Ser Asp Gly Glu Leu Phe Glu Ile Phe Gln Glu Ile Ala Ala Cys
165 170 175

Gly Ser Val Ala Val Val His Ala Glu Asn Glu Thr Ile Ile Gln Ala
180 185 190

Leu Gln Lys Gln Ile Lys Ala Ala Gly Arg Lys Asp Met Ala Ala Tyr
195 200 205

Glu Ala Ser Gln Pro Val Phe Gln Glu Asn Glu Ala Ile Gln Arg Ala
210 215 220

Leu Leu Leu Gln Lys Glu Ala Gly Cys Arg Leu Ile Val Leu His Val
225 230 235 240

Ser Asn Pro Asp Gly Val Glu Leu Ile His Arg Ala Gln Ser Glu Gly
245 250 255

Gln Asp Val His Cys Glu Ser Gly Pro Gln Tyr Leu Asn Ile Thr Thr
260 265 270

Asp Asp Ala Glu Arg Ile Gly Pro Tyr Met Lys Val Ala Pro Pro Val
275 280 285

```
Arg Ser Ala Glu Met Asn Val Arg Leu Trp Glu Gln Leu Glu Asn Gly
    290                 295                 300

Leu Ile Asp Thr Leu Gly Ser Asp His Gly Gly His Pro Val Glu Asp
305                 310                 315                 320

Lys Glu Pro Gly Trp Lys Asp Val Trp Lys Ala Gly Asn Gly Ala Leu
                325                 330                 335

Gly Leu Glu Thr Ser Leu Pro Met Met Leu Thr Asn Gly Val Asn Lys
            340                 345                 350

Gly Arg Leu Ser Leu Glu Arg Leu Val Glu Val Met Cys Glu Lys Pro
        355                 360                 365

Ala Lys Leu Phe Glu Ile Tyr Pro Gln Lys Gly Thr Leu Gln Val Gly
    370                 375                 380

Ser Asp Ala Asp Leu Leu Ile Leu Asp Leu Asp Ile Asp Thr Lys Val
385                 390                 395                 400

Asp Ala Ser Gln Phe Arg Ser Leu His Lys Tyr Ser Pro Phe Asp Gly
                405                 410                 415

Met Pro Val Thr Gly Ala Pro Val Leu Thr Met Val Arg Gly Thr Val
            420                 425                 430

Val Ala Glu Lys Gly Glu Val Leu Val Glu Gln Gly Phe Gly Gln Phe
        435                 440                 445

Val Thr Arg His Asp Tyr Glu Ala Ser Lys
    450                 455         458
```

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 13:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 1377 nucleotides
(B) TYPE: nucleotide
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: nucleic acid

(ix) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 13

```
atgtttgacg taatagttaa gaactgccgt atggtgtcca gcgacggaat caccgaggca      60
gacattctgg tgaaagacgg caaagtcgcc gcaatcagct cggacacaag tgatgttgag     120
gcgagccgaa ccattgacgc gggtggcaag ttcgtgatgc cgggcgtggt cgatgaacat     180
gcgagccgaa ccattgacgc gggtggcaag ttcgtgatgc cgggcgtggt cgatgaacat     240
tctgcggccg tgggaggcat caccaccatc atcgagatgc cgtttacctt cccgcccacc     300
accactttgg acgccttcct cgaaaagaag aagcaggcgg ggcagcggtt gaaagttgac     360
ttcgcgctct atggcggtgg agtgccggga aacctgcccg agatccgcaa aatgcacgac     420
gccggcgcag tgggcttcaa gtcaatgatg gcagcctcag ttccgggcat gttcgacgcc     480
gtcagcgacg gcgaactgtt cgaaatcttc caggagatcg cagcctgtgg ttcagtcgcc     540
gtggtccatg ccgagaatga aacgatcatt caagcgctcc agaagcagat caaagccgct     600
```

```
ggtcgcaagg acatggccgc ctacgaggca tcccaaccag ttttccagga gaacgaggcc      660
attcagcgtg cgttactact gcagaaagaa gccggctgtc gactgattgt gcttcacgtg      720
agcaaccctg acggggtcga gctgatacat cgggcgcaat ccgagggcca ggacgtccac      780
tgcgagtcgg gtccgcagta tctgaatatc accacggacg acgccgaacg aatcggaccg      840
tatatgaagg tcgcgccgcc cgtccgctca gccgagatga acgtcagatt atgggaacaa      900
cttgagaacg ggctcatcga caccccttggg tcagaccacg gcggacatcc tgtcgaggac     960
aaagaacccg gctggaagga cgtgtggaaa gccggcaacg gtgcgctggg ccttgagaca     1020
tccctgccta tgatgctgac caacggagtg aataaaggca ggctatcctt ggaacgcctc     1080
gtcgaggtga tgtgcgagaa acctgcgaag ctctttggca tctatccgca gaagggcacg     1140
ctacaggttg gttccgacgc cgatctgctc atcctcgatc tggatattga caccaaagtg     1200
gatgcctcgc agttccgatc cctgcataag tacagcccgt tcgacgggat gcccgtcacg     1260
ggtgcaccgg ttctgacgat ggtgcgcgga acggtggtgg cagagaaggg agaagttctg     1320
gtcgagcagg gattcggcca gttcgtcacc cgtcacgact acgaggcgtc gaagtga        1377
```

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 14:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 458 amino acids
(B) TYPE: amino acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(ix) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 14

```
Met Phe Asp Val Ile Val Lys Asn Cys Arg Met Val Ser Ser Asp Gly
                5                  10                  15

Ile Thr Glu Ala Asp Ile Leu Val Lys Asp Gly Lys Val Ala Ala Ile
            20                  25                  30

Ser Ser Asp Thr Ser Asp Val Glu Ala Ser Arg Thr Ile Asp Ala Gly
        35                  40                  45

Gly Lys Phe Val Met Phe Gly Val Val Asp Glu His Val His Ile Ile
    50                  55                  60

Asp Met Asp Leu Lys Asn Arg Tyr Gly Arg Phe Glu Leu Asp Ser Glu
65                  70                  75                  80

Ser Ala Ala Val Gly Gly Ile Thr Thr Ile Ile Glu Met Pro Phe Thr
                85                  90                  95

Phe Pro Pro Thr Thr Thr Leu Asp Ala Phe Leu Glu Lys Lys Lys Gln
            100                 105                 110

Ala Gly Gln Arg Leu Lys Val Asp Phe Ala Leu Tyr Gly Gly Gly Val
        115                 120                 125

Pro Gly Asn Leu Pro Glu Ile Arg Lys Met His Asp Ala Gly Ala Val
    130                 135                 140

Gly Phe Lys Ser Met Met Ala Ala Ser Val Pro Gly Met Phe Asp Ala
145                 150                 155                 160
```

```
Val Ser Asp Gly Glu Leu Phe Glu Ile Phe Gln Glu Ile Ala Ala Cys
                165                 170                 175

Gly Ser Val Ala Val Val His Ala Glu Asn Glu Thr Ile Ile Gln Ala
            180                 185                 190

Leu Gln Lys Gln Ile Lys Ala Ala Gly Arg Lys Asp Met Ala Ala Tyr
        195                 200                 205

Glu Ala Ser Gln Pro Val Phe Gln Glu Asn Glu Ala Ile Gln Arg Ala
    210                 215                 220

Leu Leu Leu Gln Lys Glu Ala Gly Cys Arg Leu Ile Val Leu His Val
225                 230                 235                 240

Ser Asn Pro Asp Gly Val Glu Leu Ile His Arg Ala Gln Ser Glu Gly
                245                 250                 255

Gln Asp Val His Cys Glu Ser Gly Pro Gln Tyr Leu Asn Ile Thr Thr
            260                 265                 270

Asp Asp Ala Glu Arg Ile Gly Pro Tyr Met Lys Val Ala Pro Pro Val
        275                 280                 285

Arg Ser Ala Glu Met Asn Val Arg Leu Trp Glu Gln Leu Glu Asn Gly
    290                 295                 300

Leu Ile Asp Thr Leu Gly Ser Asp His Gly Gly His Pro Val Glu Asp
305                 310                 315                 320

Lys Glu Pro Gly Trp Lys Asp Val Trp Lys Ala Gly Asn Gly Ala Leu
                325                 330                 335

Gly Leu Glu Thr Ser Leu Pro Met Met Leu Thr Asn Gly Val Asn Lys
            340                 345                 350

Gly Arg Leu Ser Leu Glu Arg Leu Val Glu Val Met Cys Glu Lys Pro
        355                 360                 365

Ala Lys Leu Phe Glu Ile Tyr Pro Gln Lys Gly Thr Leu Gln Val Gly
    370                 375                 380

Ser Asp Ala Asp Leu Leu Ile Leu Asp Leu Asp Ile Asp Thr Lys Val
385                 390                 395                 400

Asp Ala Ser Gln Phe Arg Ser Leu His Lys Tyr Ser Pro Phe Asp Gly
                405                 410                 415

Met Pro Val Thr Gly Ala Pro Val Leu Thr Met Val Arg Gly Thr Val
            420                 425                 430
```

Val Ala Glu Lys Gly Glu Val Leu Val Glu Gln Gly Phe Gly Gln Phe
435 440 445

Val Thr Arg His Asp Tyr Glu Ala Ser Lys
450 455 458

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 15:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 30 nucleotides
(B) TYPE: nucleotide
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: nucleic acid

(ix) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 15

agaacatatg tttgacgtaa tagttaagaa 30

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 16:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 28 nucleotides
(B) TYPE: nucleotide
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: nucleic acid

(ix) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 16

aaaaggatcc tcacttcgac gcctcgta 28

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 17:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 30 nucleotides
(B) TYPE: nucleotide
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: nucleic acid

(ix) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 17

aggcgacata tgaccctgca gaaagcgcaa 30

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 18:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 30 nucleotides
(B) TYPE: nucleotide
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: nucleic acid

(ix) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 18

atgggatccc cggtcaagtg ccttcattac 30

The invention involves the following:

1. A modified hydantoinase having improved enzymatic properties relative to unmodified hydantoinase of SEQ. ID. NO: 1, wherein said modified hydantoinase consists of unmodified hydantoinase which has been modified by an amino acid substitution at one or more amino acid positions selected from the group consisting of amino acid position numbers 95, 154, 180, 251 and 255.

2. A modified hydantoinase according to claim **1** wherein said one or more amino acid substitutions are selected from the group consisting of I95F, I95L, V154A, V180A, Q251R and V255A.

3. A modified hydantoinase according to claim **1** wherein said unmodified hydantoinase is modified by the amino acid substitutions I95F, V180A and Q251R.

4. A modified hydantoinase according to claim **1** wherein said unmodified hydantoinase is modified by the amino acid substitutions V180A and Q251R.

5. A modified hydantoinase according to claim **1** wherein said unmodified hydantoinase is modified by the amino acid substitutions I95L and Q251R.

6. A modified hydantoinase according to claim **1** wherein said unmodified hydantoinase is modified by the amino acid substitution V154A.

7. A modified hydantoinase according to claim **1** wherein said unmodified hydantoinase is modified by the amino acid substitution V255A.

9. A modified hydantoinase according to claim **1** wherein said unmodified hydantoinase is modified by the amino acid substitution I95L.

10. A nucleic acid segment comprising a region which encodes a modified hydantoinase having improved enzymatic properties relative to unmodified hydantoinase of SEQ. ID. NO. 1, wherein said modified hydantoinase consists of unmodified hydantoinase which has been modified by an amino acid substitution at one or more amino acid positions selected from the group consisting of amino acid position numbers 95, 154, 180, 251 and 255.

11. A nucleic acid segment according to claim **10** wherein said one or more amino acid substitutions are selected from the group consisting of I95F, I95L, V154A, V180A, Q251R and V255A.

12. An expression vector containing a nucleic acid segment according to claim **10**.

13. An expression vector containing a nucleic acid segment according to claim **11**.

14. A host cell comprising a nucleic acid segment according to claim **10**.

15. A host cell comprising a nucleic acid segment according to claim **11**.

16. A method for producing a modified hydantionase wherein said method comprises the steps of:

expressing a nucleic acid segment encoding said modified hydantoinase according to claim **10** in a suitable host cell to produce modified hydantoinase; and

recovering said modified hydantoinase produced by said expression step.

17. A method for producing a modified hydantionase wherein said method comprises the steps of:

expressing a nucleic acid segment encoding said modified hydantoinase according to claim **11** in a suitable host cell to produce modified hydantoinase; and

recovering said modified hydantoinase produced by said expression step.

18. Process for the production of amino acids utilizing a modified hydantoinase according to claim **1**.

19. Process according to claim **18** characterized in that a modified hydantoinase according to claim **2** is utilized.

20. Process according to claim **18** and/or **19** characterized in that accompanied with the hydantoinase a carbamoylase and a hydantoin racemase is used.

21. Process according to one or more of claims **18** to **20** characterized in that free or immobilized hydantoinase is used.

22. Process according to one or more of claims **18** to **21** characterized in that alanine, leucine, isoleucine, methionine, valine or tert.-leucine or neopentyl glycine are produced.

23. Process according to one or more of claims **18** to **22** characterized in that the process is performed in an enzyme-membrane-reactor.

24. Whole cell catalyst comprising a gene encoding for a carbamoylase, a racemase and a hydantoinase wherein the hydantoinase is considered to be according to claim **1** or **2**.

25. Catalyst according to claim **24** characterized in that a bacteria is used as a whole cell.

26. Catalyst according to claims **24** and/or **25** characterized in that Escherichia coli is used as a whole cell.

27. Process for the production of amino acids utilizing whole cell catalysts according to claim **24**.

28. Process according to claim **27** characterized in that methionine, valine, threonine, lysine or tert.-leucine is produced.

29. Process according to claims **27** and/or **28** characterized in that the process is performed in an enzyme-membrane-reactor.

30. Process for the production of a whole cell catalyst according to claim **24**, wherein expression vectors pOM17, pOM18, pOM20, pOM22 and/or pOM21 are used.

31. Process according to claim **30** wherein primers of SEQ. NO. 17, SEQ. NO. 18, SEQ. NO. 15 and/or SEQ. NO. 16 are used.

32. A process for the production of alpha-amino acids using a whole cell catalyst containing an evolved hydantoinase of claim **1** where produced N-carbamoyl-D-amino-acid or N-carbamoyl-L-amino acid is chemically or enzymatically hydrolyzed and racemization of the hydantoin enantiomers is chemically or enzymatically achieved.

33. A process for the production of D- or L-alpha-amino acids using a free or immobilized evolved hydantoinase where produced N-carbamoyl-D-amino acid or N-carbamoyl-L-amino acid is chemically or enzymatically hydrolyzed and racemization of the hydantoin enantiomers is chemically or enzymatically achieved.

HYDANTOINASE VARIANTS WITH IMPROVED PROPERTIES AND THEIR USE FOR THE PRODUCTION OF AMINO ACIDS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Hydantoinase enzymes which are mutants of a previously isolated hydantoinase having the amino acid SEQ. ID. NO. 2. The mutants include amino acid substitutions at positions 95, 154, 180, 251 and/or 255 of the wild type hydantoinase (SEQ. ID. NO. 2). The mutant hydantoinases, like the parent hydantoinase, are used in the production of optically pure amino acids.

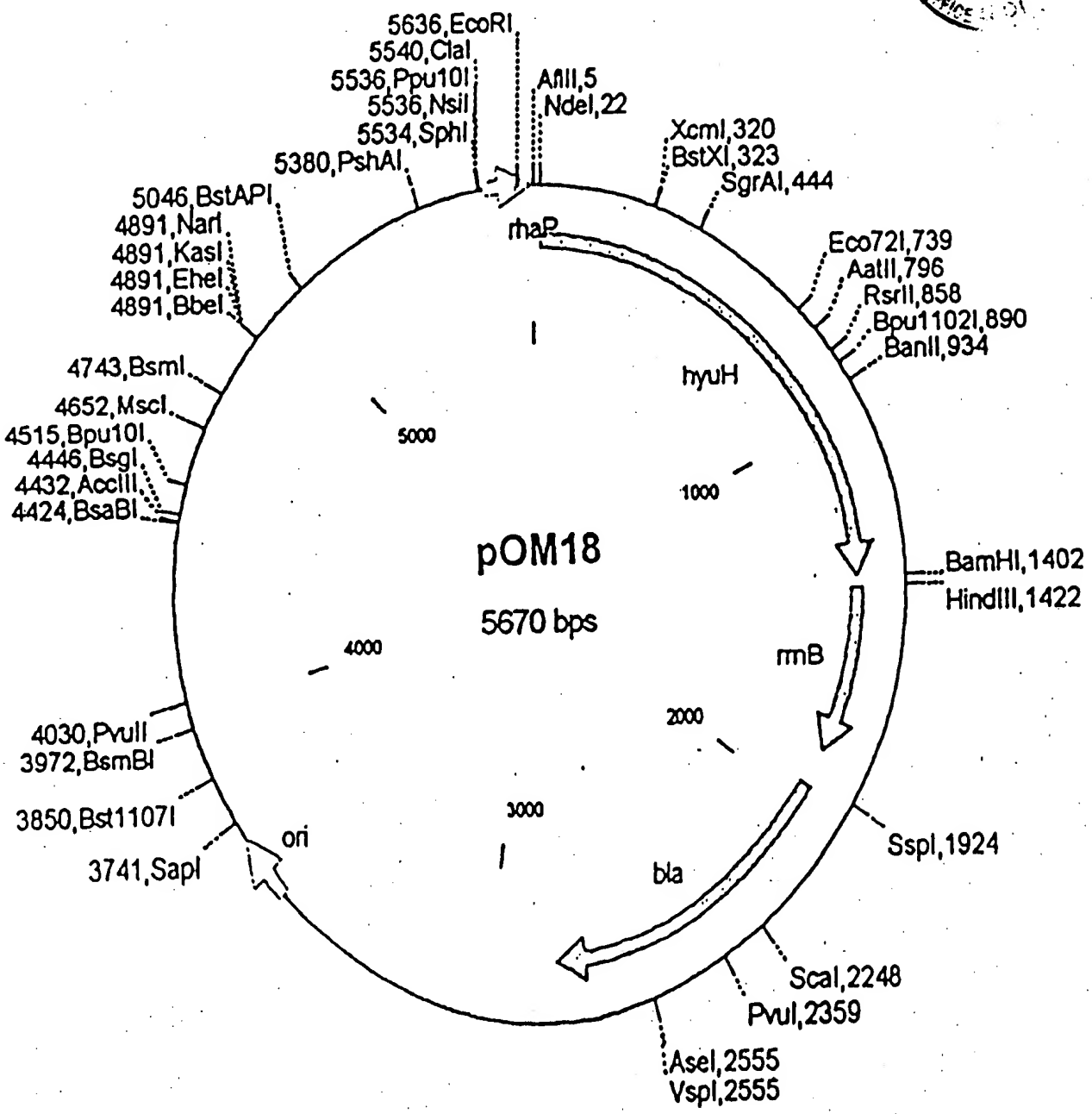


FIG. 1

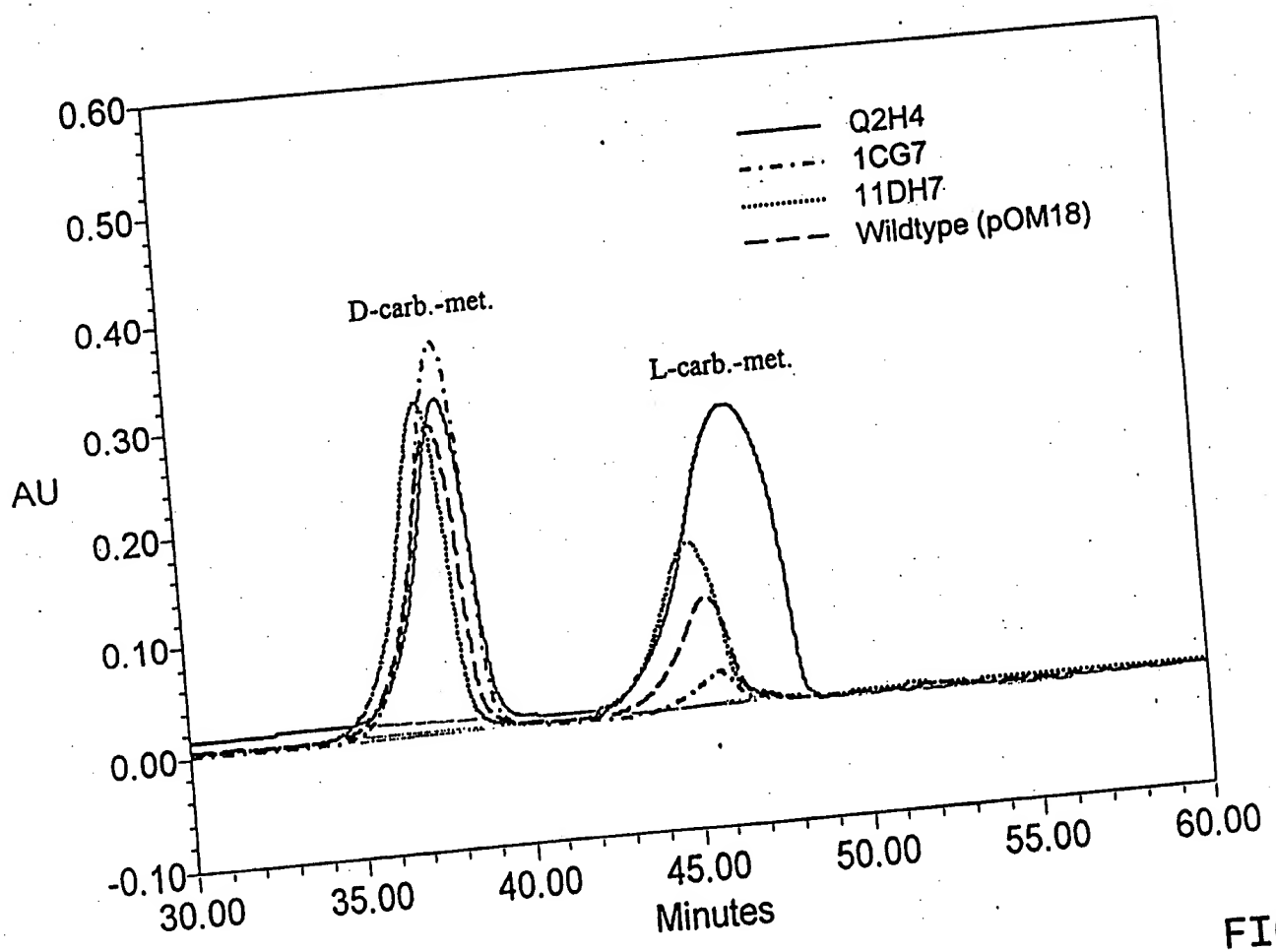


FIG. 2

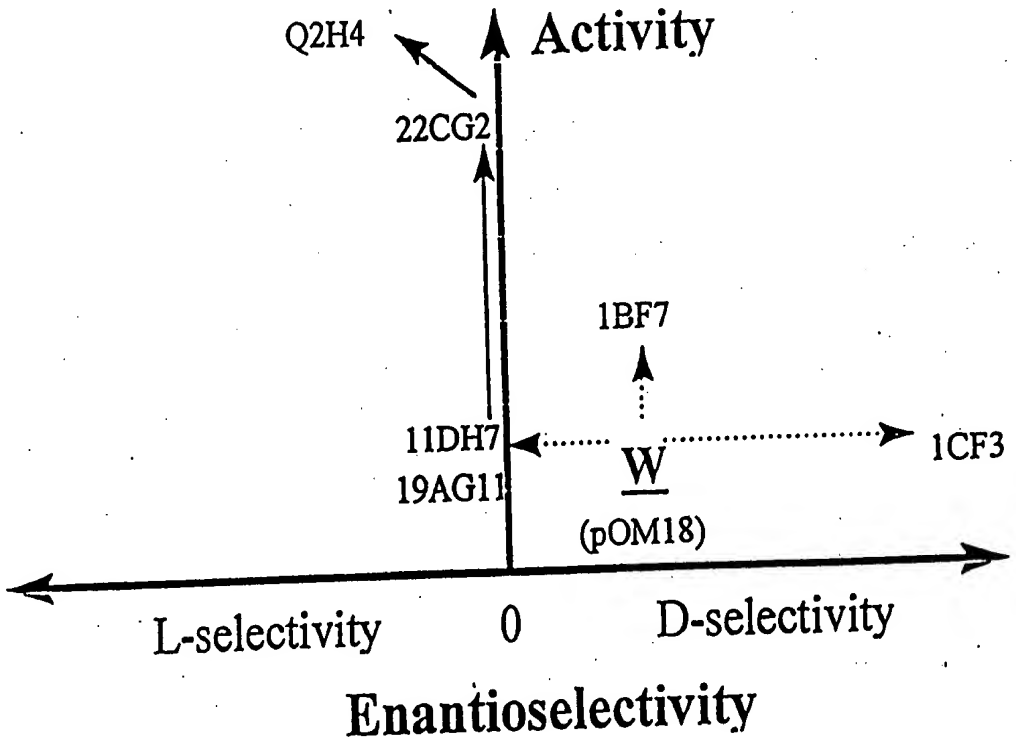


FIG. 3

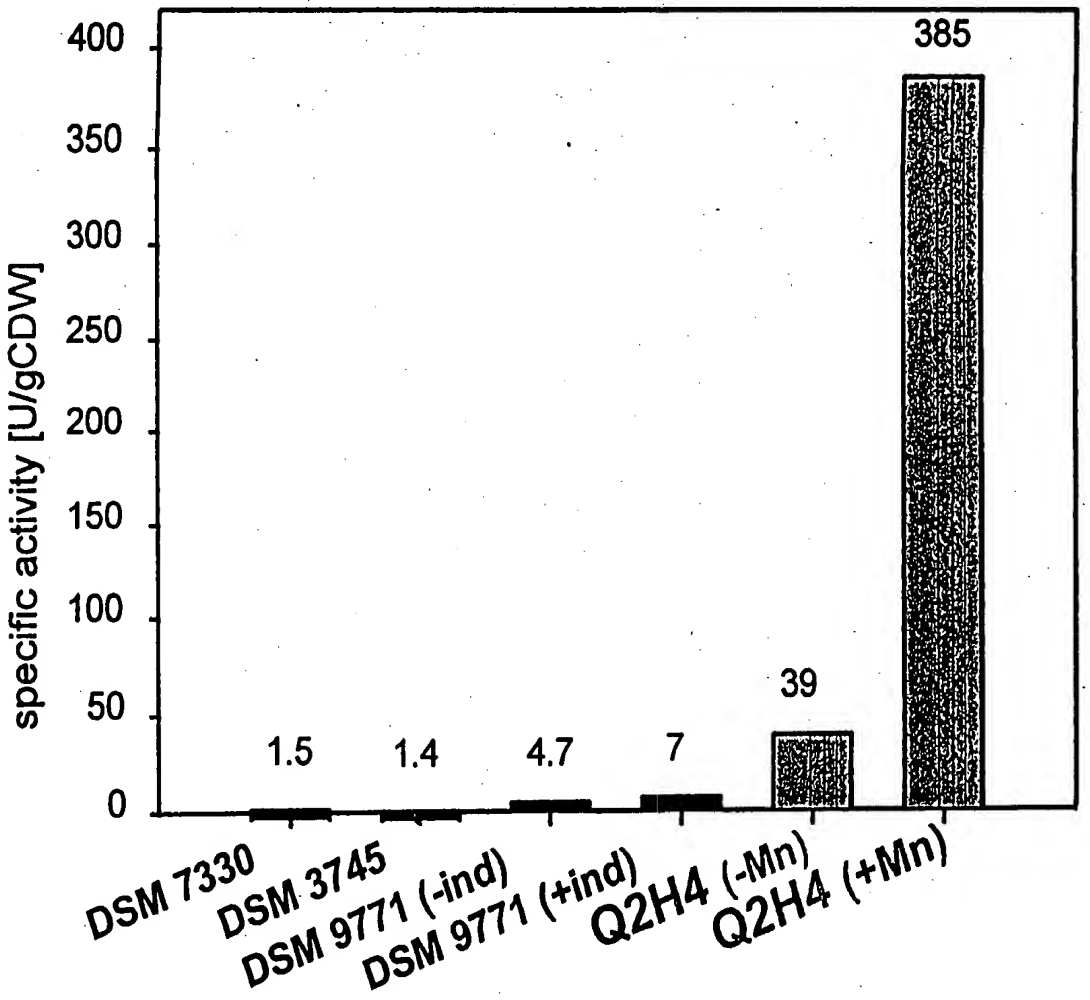
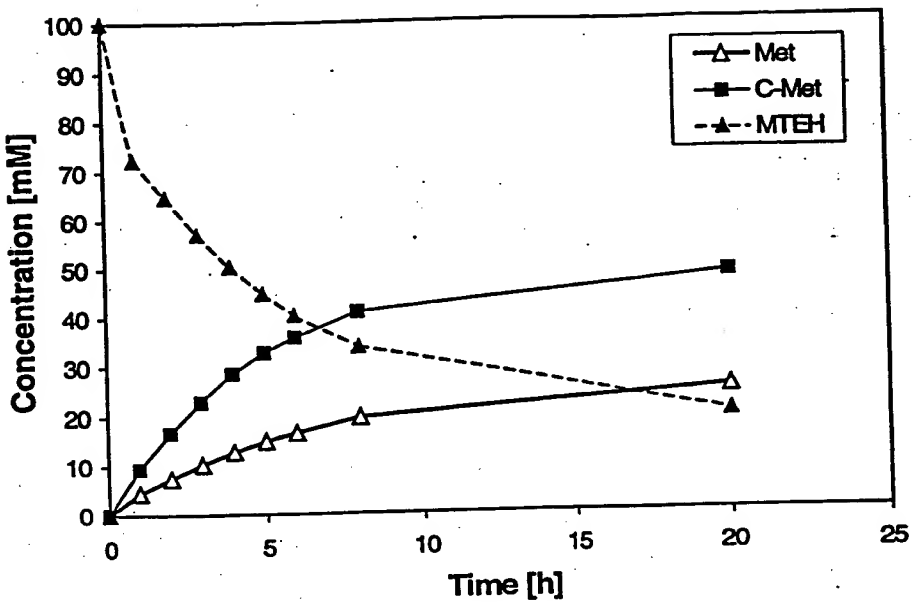


FIG. 4

A)



B)

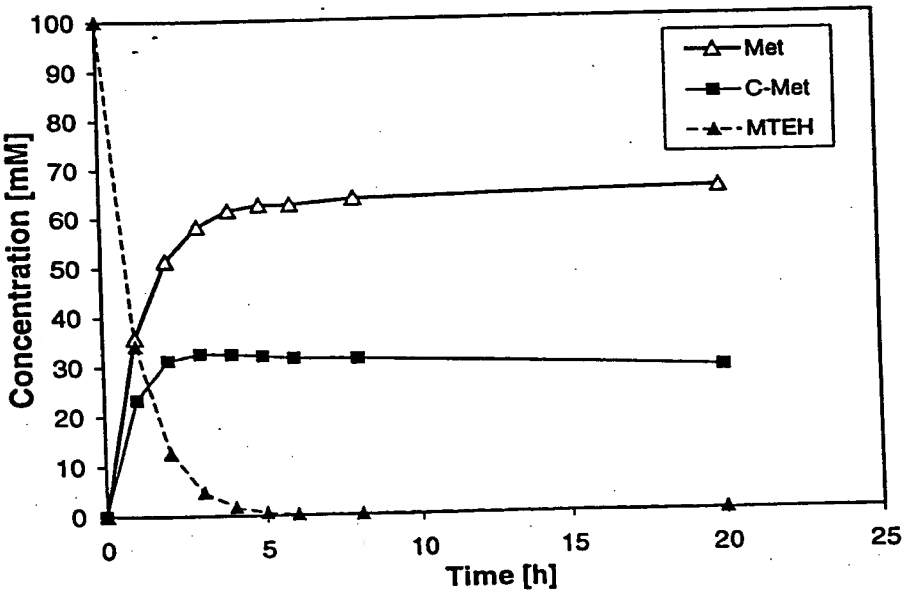


FIG. 5